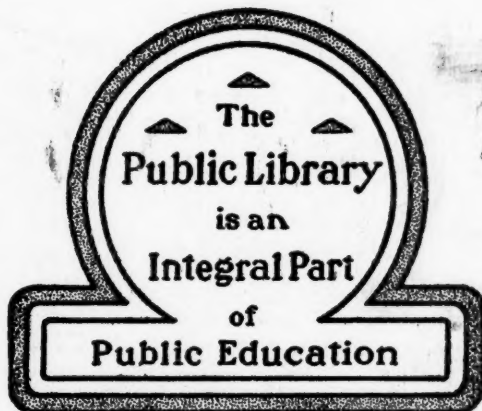


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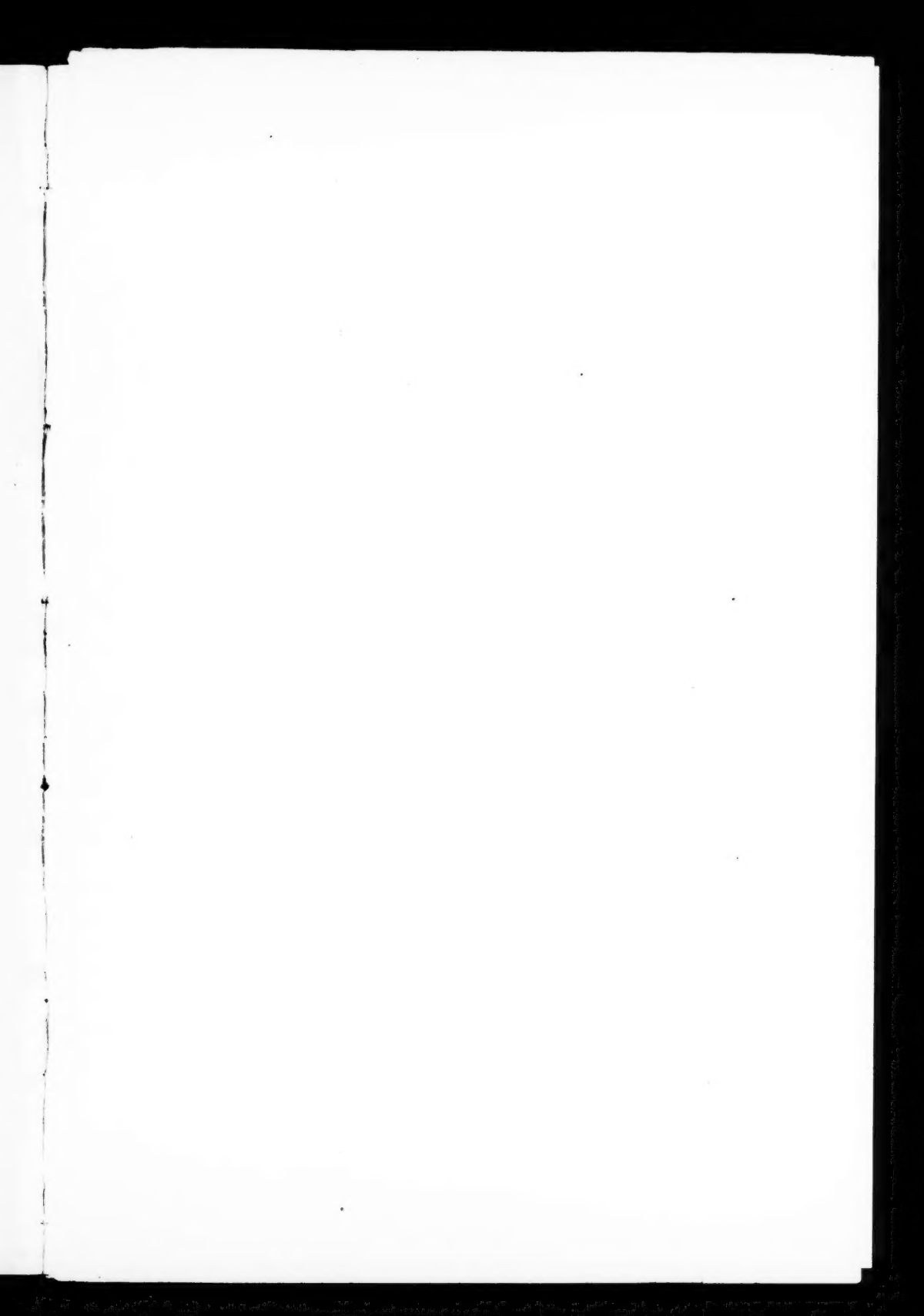
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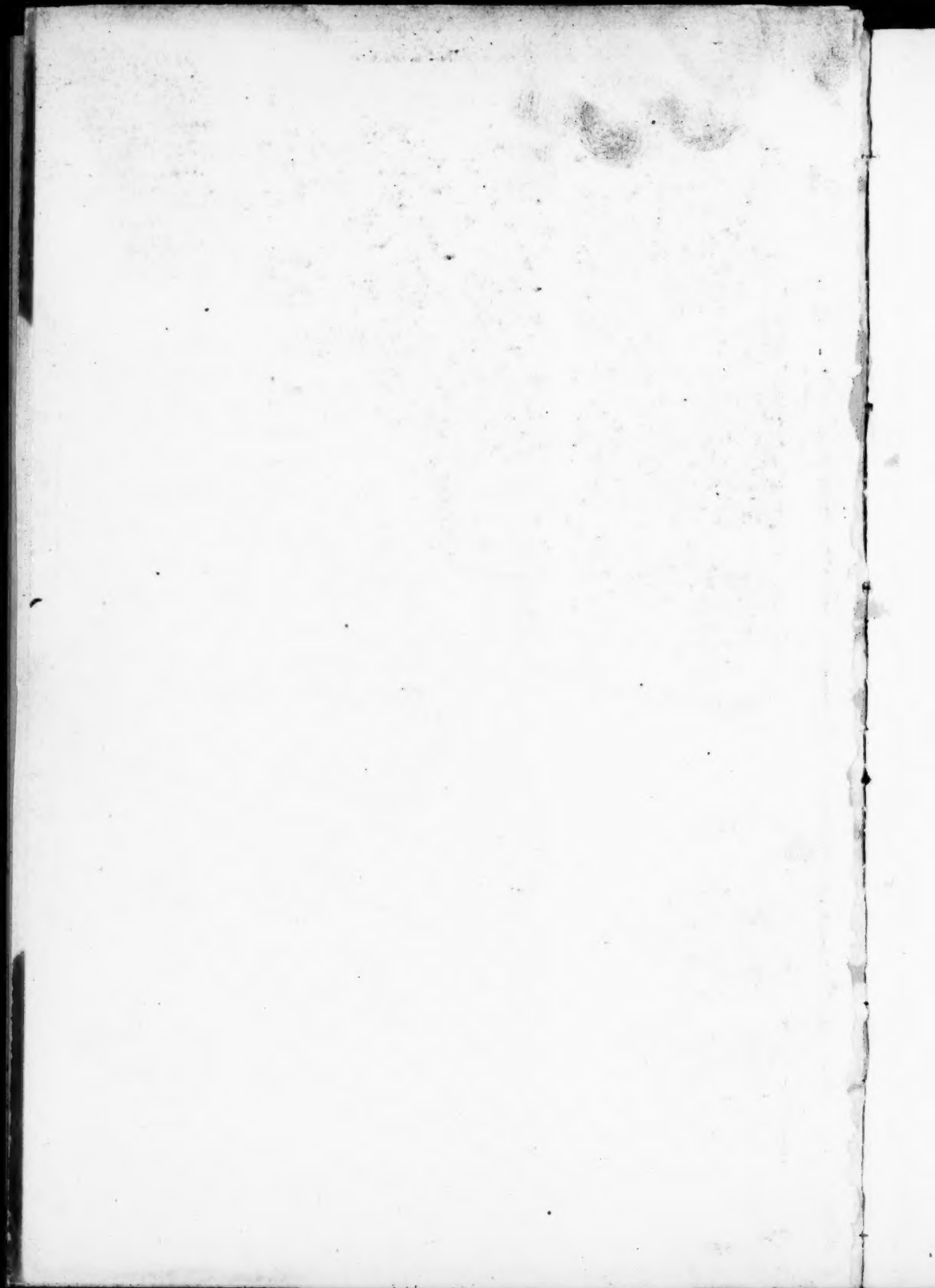
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Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 16

February, 1911

No. 2

Should Librarians Read?*

F. G. Kenyon, M. A., D. Litt., Ph. D., principal librarian of British Museum

It has been said, as you are no doubt aware, that "The librarian who reads is lost;" and I can well believe that for a librarian with literary tastes it must be difficult to catalog the titles of attractive books without spending much time in dipping into their contents. But the proposition which I wish to lay down is the opposite of this. It is that the librarian who does not read is lost.

Broadly speaking, I suppose the librarian engaged in supplying books to the public has to deal with three great classes of books—works of fiction, works of information, and works of pure literature; or, the literature of pastime, the literature of knowledge, and the literature of imagination. The classification is only a rough one, since works of fiction or of information may also be works of pure literature; but it will serve. Now, if a reader asks a librarian for advice with regard to the first of these classes his task is fairly obvious. He will try to steer the reader clear of trashy and ephemeral novels; indeed, we will hope that his library does not contain such books; and within the wide range of healthy fiction which, I am thankful to say, the English language possesses, he will adapt his prescription to the age and probable tastes of his patient. . . . All this is obvious enough, and the only requisite is that the librarian should himself have a large and catholic taste for the best fiction of all kinds.

*Address before the Library assistants' association at the sixteenth session, held at Cutlers' Hall, Oct. 12, 1910. Printed first in *The Library Assistant* in November. Given by kind permission from *The Library Assistant* and Dr. Kenyon.

With regard to works of information, the task of the librarian is still simpler. If a reader comes to you in search of information on a particular subject, presumably he wants information on that subject and not on another, and your duty is limited to furnishing him with the best book in your library which deals with that subject. If he wants information on aeroplanes, let us say, it is no good offering him a treatise on submarines; and if he is in search of a guide to emigration to Canada, it is useless to tell him that you have an excellent line in travels in Timbuctoo. You have just, with the assistance of bibliographies and subject indexes, to put him in the way of finding the facts he wants; and that is all.

But sometimes you may get a reader here and there—probably a young one—who wants neither fiction nor solid facts, but literature; and if you believe that the cultivation of the imagination is the leaven which leavens the whole lump of human progress, you will be anxious to do your best for those readers who show signs of possessing some sparks of this divine fire, and to steer them clear of the dangers which beset them. Dangers there are, unquestionably. A taste for literature may lead, only too easily, to a washy and ineffective sentimentalism. Many a man arrives at a truer intellectual culture by the simple study and accumulation of facts scientific or historical, than is ever attained by some of those who pride themselves on their culture and refinement. The ideal is an amalgam in proper proportions of the two elements, of information and imagination, of facts and dreams, if you like to put it in that way; but whereas compara-

tively little guidance is necessary to enable the student to arrive at his facts, advice may be of very considerable value in guiding the beginner's footsteps in the gardens of pure literature, whether prose or verse.

It is of this, therefore, that I wish mainly to speak, yet without pretending to lay down the law, as from a position of superior knowledge. I merely wish to bring into the general stock some personal opinions, some personal experiences, which may or may not be of use to others. If we wish to know how to interest those who come to us for advice in certain classes of literature, it is helpful to know what books have been found most stimulating by others in the history of their own mental development. Let those who have learnt to love literature and who have found it a valuable element in their own lives say how they came to appreciate it, and by what steps they entered into their kingdom. Different minds respond to different stimuli, and the more unusual and abnormal a man's intellectual equipment is, the less valuable will his experience be to the average mortal. It is because I believe myself to be on the whole a very average mortal that, on being invited to address you, I decided to devote most of my time to speaking about a few books which I found of the greatest value in the formative period of my own boyhood.

The book which, from my own experience, I believe to be the very best as an introduction both to English literature and to English history is Macaulay's *Essays*. To them I owe the beginnings of my love of literature as distinct from a mere reading of story books. Perhaps I should go a step further back and say that I owe my introduction to the *Essays* to Trevelyan's *Life of Lord Macaulay*. This, which I believe to be one of the three or four best biographies in the English language, interested me in Macaulay as a man and sent me on to the *Essays*; and the *Essays* opened to me the gates of classical English literature. Macaulay is not altogether in fashion now among literary critics. He is charged

with being too rhetorical and metallic in style and as lacking the finer shades of critical appreciation. He has not the manner of Matthew Arnold, of Pater, of Austin Dobson, or Andrew Lang, or of half a score of the literary critics of today; nor does he worship at the same literary shrines. He did not, to all appearance, greatly care for Wordsworth or Coleridge, though he speaks in complimentary terms of both; Shelley and Keats did not appeal to him, if indeed he had read the latter at all; and I do not know that there is any evidence that he had, beyond the fact that there were few things between two covers which Macaulay had not read. He lived too near to these great luminaries of the Georgian age to appreciate them at their true value; and his own tastes had been formed on the literature of earlier generations. But of that literature, from Chaucer to Cowper, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that there was nothing he had not read, nothing that he did not remember, and (what is more) no author who was not a living person to him. He was as much at home with Addison and Steele, with Swift and Defoe, with Johnson and Goldsmith, as he was with his most intimate contemporaries. Historian as he was—and of that I shall have something to say presently—his life was steeped in literature. He read and reread the great authors of classical antiquity year after year; and the comments with which his copies of them are besprinkled show with what gusto he read them, how he entered into their surroundings, how alive and real they were to him. His greatest ambition was to be reckoned hereafter as one of this great fellowship of the masters of literature. After a brilliant entry into politics, after becoming a member of the cabinet, and with a reputation for eloquence unrivaled in the House of Commons, he turned his back upon a political career in order to devote himself to literature. "Courage," he says in one of the entries in his journal after dilating on the unapproachable excellence of Thucydides, "courage, and think of A. D.

2000." And I for one believe that he will have his reward.

That, however, is not exactly the point which I wish to make now. It is not Macaulay's literary merits, nor his ultimate place in literary history, that I want to dwell on; it is his excellence as a guide to those who may be called beginners in literature. And the root of this excellence I believe to be his own whole-hearted faith in the value of literature and its vital share in human life. You may get finer insight into the shades of thought or expression, a more delicate appreciation of a writer's essential nature, from other critics; but nowhere will you get an equal recognition of the great writers of the past as living men. It is a principle as old as Horace, that if you wish to convey a certain feeling to your readers, you must first feel it yourself. To Macaulay the great men of letters of the past were living persons, and so he makes them seem so to us. To those who have read the Essays, the members of the literary society which gathered round Dryden in the coffee houses of the Restoration, round Addison in the time of Queen Anne, or round Johnson in the club of which he was the founder, are men with whose merits and failings we are intimately and familiarly acquainted.

It is the same with history. To Macaulay the politics of the Revolution were as real and as exciting as the politics of the first reform bill, in which he had taken an active and distinguished part; and the Whitehall of Charles II was as familiar as the Hyde Park or Trafalgar Square of his own day. To persons of dull imaginations the present is as dead as the past; to Macaulay the past was as living as the present. Consequently he is able to make it alive to those who read him. To anyone who is brought up on the Essays, Macaulay supplies the indelible groundwork of all his future conceptions of the great struggle between king and parliament, the policy of Walpole, the career of Chatham, the government of George III and Lord North, the characters of Fox and Burke, the achieve-

ments of Clive and Warren Hastings; in short, the whole political drama of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is immaterial to say that in some respects his judgments need revision. His views were very clear-cut and definite and were colored by his own political prepossessions, so that he was not always fair to those of whom he disapproved. But from the point of view from which we are now regarding him the important fact is that it is impossible to read him without being interested in the persons of whom he writes; that is, without becoming interested in the history of our own country.

And to this may be added as yet another of Macaulay's merits as a guide to the young, the masterly clearness of his style. His style may be antithetical to excess, metallic, rhetorical, a dangerous style to imitate; but at least he never leaves you in doubt as to his meaning. Not even the best French prose is more perspicuously clear than Macaulay. His writings are a standing antidote to all sloppy, obscure, involved, meretricious composition. It is a merit which, I think, will go far toward securing him that immortality toward which his ambitions were directed. Style is the great antiseptic of literature, and Macaulay's worst enemy cannot deny him an effective style. Whatever merits he may lack, he will at least teach his readers that literature does not consist of a mere succession of formless and incoherent sentences; that a sentence, a paragraph, should have a definite beginning, middle and end; that you should know what you mean to say and say it clearly. In these respects Macaulay is one of the great fellowship of English prose writers; not the resonant, mouth-filling, ponderous prose of Hooker and Jeremy Taylor, of Johnson and Gibbon, nor the highly colored, poetical prose of Ruskin and Pater; but the clear, unambiguous prose of Addison and Swift, and (in a later day) of Newman. Its merits appear, too, to be capable of hereditary transmission; for they reappear in his nephew and biographer Sir George Trevelyan, and yet

again in his great-nephew, George Macaulay Trevelyan, the historian of Garibaldi.

For all these reasons, which I have tried to point out, I believe Macaulay, especially in his *Essays*, to be an incomparable guide to introduce an intelligent reader to the world of literature. I do not say, nor do I think, that his merits stop there; but I am not concerned to go further at present. If you can get a reader to read the essays on Milton, Addison, Johnson and Madame d'Arblay, the two essays on Pitt, the essays on Clive and Warren Hastings, your work is done. Your reader has been inoculated with a knowledge of English literature and political history and of the foundation of our Indian empire, and it will go hard but he must also have acquired what is more important even than this knowledge, a taste for reading.

So much for Macaulay, whom, in respect of the qualities which we are now especially considering, I put a head and shoulders above any other writer. The next book I should choose is by a writer of very different character, and I should choose it for quite different reasons. The writer is Thomas Carlyle, and the book is his *Past and Present*. As you will guess, it is not for his literary style that I select him as one of my guides for youth. It is a labored, tortured, exaggerated, often obscure style; "history written by lightning flashes," as his French Revolution has been said to be, but with a large share of the murkiness of the thundercloud. Yet it is a style that takes hold of you and makes its mark; and the history of the French revolution may well be written in a combination of thundercloud and lightning flash. But *Past and Present*, the book of which I wish chiefly to speak, has different merits from these. As you know, it contains in the first place a vivid picture, drawn from an old monastic chronicle, of a certain period in the history of the great abbey of Bury St Edmunds in the latter part of the twelfth century; and over against this is set a searching examination of the social evils of Car-

lyle's own day, many of which are still the evils of our own day. Now this I believe to be valuable, especially to a young man, in two ways. The picture of twelfth-century monastic life should go far to make him realize the life of the Middle Ages, especially on its social side. It should give him an insight into the early social history of our country (as distinct from its political or military history), and it should arouse in him a curiosity to know more. Carlyle drives home the lesson, very necessary for a young student, that the times of which we read in history were just as real as the present day, that the men who lived in them were men of like passions with ourselves, and that the problems with which they had to deal were not so wholly different from our own that we cannot derive some lessons from them. And to this he adds his favorite doctrine of hero worship, which again is no bad doctrine for a young man; that men need a leader, that character and leadership are divine, and that the quality of any age or people may be judged from their power to recognize a leader when they have got one.

The second half of the book drives in the lessons which, in Carlyle's opinion, the nineteenth century had to learn from the twelfth; and we are not so far removed from the nineteenth century as to make his criticisms obsolete. We are suffering today from the effects of the preaching of what Carlyle called the gospel of Mammon, which was at its height in the middle of the last century. The gospel of Mammon is the gospel of material well-being, which makes the material prosperity of the individual the test of a man's action and a nation's prosperity. It is the doctrine of a political economy which, while possibly true enough if you assume that the supreme end and object of human existence is to make money, was sometimes preached and oftener understood as being by itself a complete philosophy of life. The natural result is that each man tends to judge always from the point of view of his own material interests to ask, not "what can I do?"

but "what shall I get out of it?"—not "what can I do for the state?" but "what can the state do for me?" This attitude of mind is often unconscious. It is not deliberate selfishness; it is the natural outcome of a man's surroundings. But the future of the nation depends on the substitution of a general sense of public service for this unhealthy individualism and materialism; and a book such as Carlyle's, which at least cannot fail to make its reader think and realize the existence of such problems as these, is, to my mind, a book to be brought to the notice of all who show signs of an intelligence capable of understanding it. Carlyle's writings were the inspiration of many of the leaders of the working classes in the middle of the last century, as readers of Kingsley's *Alton Locke* will remember; and the leaders, not only of the working classes but of the leisured classes, and not only the leaders but the rank and file, might do worse than read and meditate upon his writings today. To any librarian, therefore, who is interested in social problems and who wishes to arouse the intelligence, literary, historical, and political of his clients, I would commend the consideration of Carlyle's *Past and Present*.

The third book which I would select for its stimulative effect belongs to a wholly different class from either of the two already mentioned, and you will perhaps think that it reflects rather special tastes. It is John Addington Symonds' *Studies of the Greek Poets*. I do not say that this is a book adapted to all readers in public libraries, nor even to all who show some taste in literature; but many of you must have among your clients readers of the class who attend University Extension lectures and who have a real taste for poetry. To them, whether they know Greek or not, I would confidently recommend Symonds' book. I feel that I am perilously near the borders of two questions which are agitating classical scholars at the present day; first, what is the proper place of Greek in the education of today, and secondly, can Greek literature be appreciated from transla-

tions alone? I have my opinion on both questions, but I promise to steer clear of them now. What may be affirmed without dispute is, first, that Greek literature is the greatest known to man, and secondly, that English literature is indebted to it at every turn, is founded on it, is saturated with it through and through. Therefore, let those who can learn Greek, learn it, and great will be their reward; but those who cannot should at least learn as much about it as they can—get to know something of its character, something of what the great names in it stand for, something of what it has meant to our own writers, and to the history of our literature. And to both these classes Symonds' studies is the book which I should recommend to excite their interest. The style of Symonds is somewhat florid and flamboyant. What he feels he feels strongly, and expresses perhaps even more strongly. If anyone charges him with exaggeration, I should not be concerned to deny it. But he had in him the root of the matter. He had a wholehearted love of Greek literature; and for the purpose of arousing interest in a beginner, enthusiasm is worth any quantity of coldly balanced criticism. I defy anyone with any warmth, or capability of warmth, in his soul to read Symonds' essays on Pindar, on the Greek tragedians, on the *Anthology*, and not go away with a full sense of the greatness and beauty of the poets of whom he speaks and a keen desire to read them.

And yet I am so convinced of the value of classical—and that means in the main Greek—literature as an inspiration and a corrective of our own literature, that I would not willingly lose an opportunity of impressing this truth upon even some one hearer, especially when each hearer, if he is a librarian, is in a position to pass on the truth to others. The last of the four books on which I wish to say something is another volume of essays, but of a very different character, and by an author who, though English in language, was not English in nationality. I mean the *Essays of Emerson*. Now, I have very little doubt that some of you

who know Emerson are thinking that he is rather strong meat to put before the patrons of public libraries; and I don't deny it. Emerson is an author for the few; but for the few he is an author not to be forgotten. He is valuable, not for the same reasons as Macaulay or Symonds, or even Carlyle; not for enthusiasm, not for lucidity, not for rhetoric, not for vivid picturings of historical or social phenomena. He is valuable because he makes you think. He discusses old and time-worn subjects—history, self-reliance, love, friendship, character; but there is nothing old or time-worn about his treatment of them. He takes new points of view; he has an inexhaustible supply of new and memorable phrases. He is fond of generalizations, of phrases which appear to be intended to express the whole truth; often and often they are only partial truths, but they illumine for you a part of the truth which you might easily have overlooked, and so they make the whole truth more vivid to you. When you read Emerson in cold blood, he may seem to you exaggerated, affected, unreal; but if you read him at a receptive time of life, he may easily be one of the most powerful intellectual stimuli in your whole mental development.

Macaulay, Carlyle, Symonds, Emerson—you could not easily choose a more dissimilar quartet, and it is partly for this reason that I have selected them for my present purpose. They deal with different subjects; they appeal to different minds, or to the same mind at different stages of its development; they were men of very different character and outlook on life. But their writings have in common this one great quality of stimulus: They arrest attention, they arouse interest, they provoke to enthusiasm; and consequently they are valuable weapons to librarians who regard themselves as soldiers in the fight against ignorance, against dullness, against selfishness, against materialism. And it is in that light that I hope all librarians regard themselves. I do not say that these are the only writers who possess the power to stimulate; only that I have found that they do pos-

sess this power in a very high degree. Others may get their stimulus from other authors—from Ruskin, with his splendid eloquence, his emphatic assertions, his equally emphatic denials of what he has previously asserted, his enthusiasm for all that he held to be highest in art and fullest of good for mankind; from Lamb, with his exquisite humanity, his kindly receptiveness of all that is good in literature; or again, from some of the many accomplished writers of today, who, if less eloquent than those I have mentioned, have the advantage of being nearer to us and more in touch with present needs and feelings. So that they have the power to stimulate thought and interest, to send their readers on to make a firsthand acquaintance with literature for themselves, that is all that matters. If they have this power, they have earned the right to be considered benefactors of the human species.

Well, then, the question with which we started, "Should librarians read?" to my mind answers itself. If a librarian does not read, nay, more, if he is not a lover of reading, how can he guide the steps of those who wish to read? He may, indeed, put readers in the right way to acquire definite information of which they are in search. It needs only a bowing acquaintance with mathematics to be able to direct a student to a work on trigonometry or conic sections. But when it comes to the reading of works of imagination, of pure literature, something more than an acquaintance with the backs of books is necessary. A librarian must read, must read widely, if he is to have any influence on the literary tastes of his clients; and the wider and the more catholic his own tastes are, the more he can appreciate different kinds of excellence and sympathize with different aspirations, the more likely he is to be able to help those who come to him for advice.

Perhaps you will think that in speaking so much about opportunities for inculcating a taste for pure literature I have ignored the actual facts of library work today. Perhaps so, but I believe those opportunities are going to grow

in the future, and it is for the future that we must prepare ourselves. It is only forty years since elementary education was made universal in this country and since the formation of a public to use the public libraries was thus begun. It is not to be expected that a taste for the higher literature will be acquired at once, any more than it is acquired by a child. But already many public librarians report that their issues of non-fiction literature show a steady increase; and the example of Scotland shows us that intellectual interests may be highly developed even in the poorest classes. At any rate, the future of the nation depends on this, that trash shall not be the intellectual food of the people. If people read rubbish their minds will be rubbish heaps. If they cultivate their imaginations they may acquire ideals which are not merely selfish or material.

If, therefore, you believe that mental culture is not solely a matter of applied science; if you believe that it includes the study of mankind as it is presented to us in history, in politics, in sociology; if you believe that the exercise of the imagination is the highest branch of it; and if you believe that all these elements are to be acquired only by the reading of the right books; then surely it is your duty, as it will be your pleasure, to equip yourselves for your position by making yourselves acquainted with the best literature that is within your reach. It is a noble function, that of training and guiding the mental development of the coming generations; and in the shaping of the future of the nation no small part lies in the hands of the librarians.

The man who is involved in the wrong conditions of mind, does not know. He is ignorant of good and evil, of himself, of the inward causes which make his life. He is unhappy, and believes other people are entirely the cause of his unhappiness. He works blindly, and lives in darkness, seeing no central purpose in existence, and no orderly and lawful sequence in the course of things.—James Allen.

The Rural Community and the Library*

Dr Stanley Coulter, dean of School of Science,
Purdue University, Indiana

II

Professor Bailey of Cornell University suggests that it is the work of the library to "educationalize the reading habit;" that is, to meet the demands for books in such a way that a positive avidity for better reading is awakened. Without question this is true, and without question this is exactly the line in which libraries make their most conspicuous failures, even when operating under the most favorable conditions. Indeed, one is at times forced to the belief that librarians have lost sight of the library as an educational force, as a dynamic factor in our civilization, and have come to regard it chiefly as a device for the development of systems of card cataloging and indexing. If the educational function of the library were brought to the center of the stage, if the librarian was selected because of his clear perception of this function and his skill in putting it into operation, then and only then would Professor Bailey's suggestion meet the needs of the case. Many of you are librarians; would it be fair to ask you just what steps you would take in order to educationalize the reading habit in the townships of your own county? Would you be able to take a single step without a far greater and more complete knowledge of conditions than you now possess?

So far, the discussion has been critical rather than constructive. The real question, "*what can be done, conditions being as they are,*" has not been answered. It is to be borne in mind that the statements that follow are merely statements of personal convictions and are not to be construed as standing for a well-wrought-out plan of procedure. In the view of the writer the following facts should be clearly recognized:

1) In the great majority of cases the initiative must come from the rural community and not from the library. No

*Read before the Indiana library association, Oct. 20, 1910.

outside organization, however wisely constituted or however wisely it may work, can fully interpret the needs of any community. This formulation must come from the community itself. On the other hand, the library should be so organized that it can readily and promptly meet the reasonable demands of any community at any time. In the exceptional case, where there may be no sense of need recognized, the library may be compelled to take the initiative in order to awaken interest, but just so soon as this end is accomplished it should thenceforth wait for the expressed demands of the community. It is only another way of saying that "you may lead a horse to water, but you cannot compel it to drink."

2) A clear recognition of the fact that, because dissimilar conditions prevail, no plan of universal application can be devised, but that each community must receive special treatment. It is, of course, possible to simplify this somewhat by grouping conditions, but in the main the problems are individual problems, not capable of being added in such a way as to constitute a single mass problem.

Before, then, any permanent advance in the direction of placing the rural community and the library in proper and mutually helpful relations can be possible, there must be a careful and scientific study of the problem or problems. This study should be made by a committee composed both of members from this association and from some efficient, working association representing the rural communities. These studies should be firsthand studies of conditions and limitations in the rural community and of conditions and limitations in the libraries. Before any very convincing report as to working plans is possible, the librarians must be brought into touch with the rural community and the representatives of the rural community into touch with the libraries. A cumbrous method, perhaps, but none the less necessary and, indeed, the only one in which any rational hope can be placed, because it is the only one enlisting the coöperation of the parties in interest. It

has always taken two persons to make a contract and, presumably, always will. In any work of rural betterment it will be found that the active and intelligent coöperation of the rural communities must be secured or the work will be as valueless as a contract involving but a single party. This brings me to my first concrete proposition as to what may be done by this organization: Appoint a committee to devise plans for a complete and scientific study of the problems. A committee which shall outline the data that must be collected before any intelligent action can be taken; which shall perhaps recommend a committee to prosecute these studies or arrange in some other way for the collection of these data; which shall in the working out of this preliminary plan enlist the coöperation of as many persons in direct touch with the problems of rural life as is possible; which shall print a tentative line of procedure at as early a date as is consistent with a careful study of the problems, and distribute it widely for criticism and correction; which shall finally, after a consideration of these criticisms and suggestions, make a final report recommending definite lines of action. In a scientific attack of any problem there is always a preliminary collection of data which later serve as the basis for generalization. Upon the completeness and accuracy with which these data have been collected depends not only the value, but also the range of application, of the generalizations. In a sentence, the first work of this association is to recognize that they are dealing with an extremely intricate problem, that the only hope of its solution lies in an antecedent collection of complete and accurate data bearing upon its every phase. In no other way can this association impress the rural community and the state at large with the sincerity of its purpose. The offhand and cavalier way in which a rural problem has been assumed to exist and the equally offhand and cavalier way in which plans of betterment have been announced would be extremely ludicrous, had we not seen how every such utterance had blocked

progress in a matter which is of the highest and most vital importance. I am more convinced of the value of this suggestion because of a remark made to me this week by a man prominent in state affairs. He said that up to this time no intelligent steps had been taken by the libraries in the direction of rural betterment. That every movement had been in the direction of the exploitation of the library instead of the result of an intelligent appreciation of the situation and an equally intelligent effort in the direction of the amelioration of conditions. If I were to give you his name you would recognize that he was a man thoroughly entitled to speak upon this matter, one, indeed, who, because of training, experience and close contact with both sides of the problem, was entitled to speak with authority.

My next concrete suggestion is this: That a composite committee, composite along lines previously suggested, be named to make a careful study of suitable literature to be used in any work which the libraries may undertake. Such a study has never been made from the dual standpoint suggested, and the result of such a study, if carefully and seriously undertaken, would be of the highest significance and would constitute a positive contribution to knowledge. Certainly, in no other way can we "educationalize the reading habit." I have examined Professor Christies' list of books with extreme care and with very great interest, because of what it indicates rather than of what it contains. There is not a book named that is not valuable, but there is not a book named that does not bear directly and evidently and insistently upon practical farm problems. From my standpoint the list is far too narrow. The dweller in the open country is more than a money-making machine, he is confronted with other problems than those of increase of crops and herds, he, like every other man, is confronted with the problems of life, those great problems whose correct solution leads to the gaining of the solid and enduring satisfactions of life. The criti-

cism of the list is not based upon what it contains, but what it omits. It is a list that makes for efficiency, but neglects entirely suggestions for reading leading to the development of breadth and culture and tolerance. I have not been able to secure a list of books sent out or recommended by librarians, but there is no doubt that they would show as great a shortcoming in other directions. In perhaps a lack of appreciation of the real problems of the man dealing with the land and its products, in a tendency to neglect the practical and overemphasize the æsthetic and imaginative. Only by careful study, only by the attrition of minds representing these two extreme views, can we work out at present the selection of books, or, put in another way, of the tools with which we hope to work out a better civilization. Professor Bailey laments the fact that so little of our literature treats of farm subjects, so few novels sound in farm life, so few poems sing the joys and hopes of rural communities, so few biographies of great farmers are to be found. I am not greatly impressed by this lack. It is well even for the farmer to remember occasionally that he is a man, and to recognize that there are world problems, world thoughts, world aspirations of the very highest significance that do not sound in the least in the farm or rural community; to recognize the fact that only as he comes into touch with these can he attain his own highest possibilities. It is very possible to make a selection of books that will be of the highest practical value, even though they fail to touch a single one of the everyday problems of rural life. It is in our attempts at the evaluation of truth that we are apt to make our most fatal mistakes. This second suggestion is really in the same line as the first, a recommendation of careful and far-reaching preliminary studies before undertaking the work on any large scale.

Another suggestion grows out of the fact that in a very large number of rural communities, reading or study clubs are now in operation. These clubs are in

4. The Training of Farmers.

many cases conducted with great enthusiasm, but they could be made very much more efficient if brought into touch with the library. The form the suggestion takes is this: That means be taken to secure from year to year a list of the various study and reading clubs in rural communities, together with the subjects being pursued. That upon the collection of this information lists be made of books bearing directly upon the subject, or which, while not bearing directly upon it, might serve to illustrate the main theme. That these lists be sent to these study clubs with full directions as to how the books named might be withdrawn for the purposes of the club, adding such other information as might serve to make the service of the library in this respect the most effective possible. I can picture to myself the machinery of such a scheme for very few administrative difficulties could appear in the operation of such a plan, even though it were statewide. It may be objected in this case, also, that the plan is cumbersome, and that it entails great antecedent work upon the part of the libraries. The evident answer to the objection is, that if the end sought is not worth the antecedent work, the whole matter had better be dropped. Full-grown, intelligent men and women ought not to play at uplift and betterment. Such movements in their successful development demand, yes, exact, painstaking, persistent and self-sacrificing work. Those who are not ready to render such service should be warned in no uncertain tones to keep hands off. So far as the objection goes to the cumbersome character of the plan, it can be said that there is no law against advancing a more simple and direct way of reaching the result.

As a fourth suggestion I urge the importance of a careful consideration of the feasibility of extending the field of service of existing libraries, making the area which they serve much larger than it is at present. In our own county of Tippecanoe I can see no good reason why requests for books should not be filed at certain designated centers, such as

Dayton, Westpoint, Romney, etc., and the books delivered at stated times at such centers. Of course, some objection lies in the fact that in their present organization our public libraries are largely municipal. That objection, however, is not especially serious, since, if the library could demonstrate that it was able to serve efficiently a larger area, it would be able to draw upon this larger area for support. From the viewpoint of one of the laity this extension work on the part of the library is fundamental, if the library come into any close and helpful touch with the rural community.

This could be done under the law of 1909, or, better still, through the initiative of the library in demonstrating the value of the service it can render; by this means leading the rural community to invoke the law for the continuation and extension of the service.

Summarizing: The work of this association is to discover whether a problem involving the rural community and the library exists. To state that problem in clear-cut and unmistakable terms, avoiding all vagueness and glittering generalities. By wisely planned and scientifically conducted study to collect data needed for the preparation of working plans. These are the three immediate things for this association to consider.

The remaining suggestions were merely personal opinions as to means by which the ends indicated above could be reached. They have at least the merit of being honest and unbiased and of having forced themselves upon me in this study.

(Concluded.)

There is an idea abroad among moral people that they should make their neighbors good. One person I have to make good: myself. But my duty to my neighbor is much more nearly expressed by saying that I have to make him happy if I may.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

We would willingly have others perfect, yet we amend not our own faults.—Thomas a Kempis.

The Value of a Library Commission.*

W. M. Black, Librarian, Lynchburg, Va.

One of the two great journals which represent the library interests of the United States has as its motto, "The public library is an integral part of public education." In trying to establish for you this connection between the public schools and the public library, to make plain the claim of the Virginia library association that this motto is true and to set before you the demand that we make on the state of Virginia for financial support in forwarding our great work, I feel that I am particularly fortunate in speaking in the presence of an ex-governor of our commonwealth, whose term of office was made conspicuous by the beginning of a great forward movement in education; and in the presence also of our honored state superintendent of education, who has done more than any other man, save only perhaps the lamented William H. Ruffner, to put our educational interests on their present high plane; and I want to serve notice now and here, both on Mr Eggleston and on this great gathering of educators, that the next big educational step in the state of Virginia is going to be in the field of the public library. When Mr Eggleston entered office, more than five years ago, he found the high schools of our state far below the standard of other states both in number, equipment and curriculum, and no work has been done in the last five years that will be of more permanent value to the educational future of the state of Virginia than the tremendous uplift that has been given our public high schools. In financial matters also the improvement along educational lines in recent years has been far-reaching and the per capita amount that the state of Virginia now spends on education has at last reached, at least, a respectable figure, although it is still far below what is spent by some of our more progressive sister states. But in the matter of public libraries we are so woefully in the rear that any

Virginian need only to know the facts to feel the blush of shame mount to his brow; and I am here today to give you some of these facts. I am here as an official representative of the Library association of Virginia, which is trying to blaze the way for a great forward step in the public library as an integral part of public education; and before the way can be pointed out for the future it is first necessary to trace the course of events in the past.

Two years ago in connection with the meeting of the State educational association in Newport News a call was sent out for the organization of the Library association of Virginia; the organization then established held its second annual meeting in the city of Richmond just one year ago and mapped out as its work, not for one year nor for any term of years, but forever, or until it shall be brought to successful achievement, the building up of the cause of public libraries in the state of Virginia by the creation of a body with the powers of a library commission. Now, in order for you to understand just what a library commission is, I am going to give you a brief summary of the establishment of library commissions in some other states of the Union; follow this with a brief outline of the duties that devolve upon such a commission and then will leave it to you to decide whether or not the state of Virginia can longer afford to deal parsimoniously with so great and so well recognized a public need.

Massachusetts, whose public school system stands so near the top, was the pioneer state in the establishment of a state library commission. This was in 1890 and the commission was authorized to grant \$100 in books to any town upon the establishment of a free public library. The commission selects the books and has exercised great influence in encouraging the establishment of public libraries. It is, in fact, interesting to know that when the law was enacted 105 of the 352 towns in the state of Massachusetts had no free

*Presidential address before the Virginia library association, Nov. 25, 1910, at Richmond.

libraries, while today Massachusetts has the proud distinction of being the only state in the Union in which the number of towns and the number of free public libraries is exactly the same. New Hampshire followed in 1891 with a somewhat similar law by which \$100 was granted to each town founding a free library; in addition to this, however, the New Hampshire commission was instrumental in passing a compulsory library law by which every town *must* levy a certain mill tax to maintain a library. The minimum instead of the maximum amount is prescribed; if the town has no library the fund accumulates, and any town wishing to omit the assessment must specifically vote to do so. In 1903, 144 libraries had been established by state aid, leaving only 24 towns in the state without a free library. In 1892, New York developed a system of state supervision of libraries, putting the work in charge of the Home education division of the State library of New York. Under this law the regents of the university were given power to issue charters and to give financial aid to libraries which fulfilled certain conditions. Two organizers now give their entire time to the work of visiting and assisting libraries in New York, and they are required to visit each library at least once in a year. New York is entitled to the credit of being the first state to establish traveling libraries, the first library being sent out in 1893. Other states followed with plans modeled after those given above, and in 1895 the Wisconsin commission was organized and became the pioneer and model for work in the Middle west and Northwest, one of the most productive and rapidly developing fields for public libraries in the world. The Wisconsin commission carries on its work through three departments: First, the instructional department, which includes the work of organizing and visiting libraries and the library school, conducted for the purpose of equipping suitable applicants for library work; second, the traveling library department, and third, the legislative refer-

ence and document department. And so the work has gone on until now there are 33 states in the Union where such commissions exist. In this count of 33, Virginia is included as one, on account of the valuable work done by its state library board and its state library in two of the fields of commission work that have just been mentioned, namely, in the department of traveling libraries, for which, in 1906, the state made an appropriation of \$7500; in 1908, \$1800, and in 1910 an appropriation of \$1800, and also its work in the legislative reference department, so ably conducted by Dr McIlwaine, our state librarian. But in the great work of aiding in the establishment and upbuilding of libraries at various points throughout the state, nothing at all is being done. The proposition, therefore, that the library association of Virginia is fostering; the proposition that it was our pleasure to bring before the last meeting of the Virginia legislature and the proposition which it is our intention to keep bringing until we get the people of the state to realize its importance is, not to establish a new state library commission, but to enlarge the powers of the present State library board so that its functions would not be only to have supervision and control of the State library with its traveling libraries and its legislative reference work, but that it may undertake also the great work of attempting to create libraries all over the state and to bring about in the commonwealth of Virginia the same state of affairs that exists in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, namely, that every town may have its own free public library. The question may here be very properly raised, how does a commission undertake to do this work, and what would be expected of the commission by a town that was interested in having a public library? The commission would have as its field agent an organizer whose duty it would be to keep in close touch with library conditions in every part of the state; wherever an initiative was taken in a community toward the establishment of a public

library it would be his duty to encourage such a movement and to arouse the community to a realization both of the need and of the ease of establishing public libraries. In case no initiative was furnished it would be his duty to attempt to arouse one; this work could be started, and when started carried on by correspondence, by personal visits to the community interested in a library, by conference with those in charge of the local campaign, by furnishing literature for the press and for public distribution, by delivering addresses at clubs and public meetings, and by giving everyone in the community an opportunity to deal intelligently and fairly with the question, whether or not they need or want a public library. Where libraries have already been established the organizer would be expected to visit them at least once a year and have a conference with the library force and with the trustees to examine their methods of selecting, cataloging and distributing books, and to see that all of these methods are standard and up-to-date. After this initial advisory work has been done the organizer could assist the local committee in providing plans for buildings and furnishings. So many public libraries have been built and so many costly mistakes have been made that it is now nothing but the height of folly for any committee to undertake to build and equip a library without consulting certain standards that have been evolved by the results of past experiences. Just imagine, if you can, the confusion into which educational matters in our state would fall if each municipality and each district of a county were allowed to put up buildings and arrange courses of study according to its own ideas without any consultation with the State department of education. The waste is just as great if a city attempts to establish a library without having some intelligent and effective state supervision. The same costly mistakes may be made that have been made over and over again, and they would not be made if some experienced person could be called on to

give the proper assistance at the proper time.

The Indiana commission has a collection of photographs and floor plans of several hundred library buildings answering different requirements as to space and cost; these have proved of the greatest value to architects and local boards, and doubtless their claim is true, that the assistance they give a single community in removing the possibility of costly mistakes would pay the entire maintenance charge of the commission for several years. Another matter to which I wish to call your attention is this: the state of Virginia enrolls in its public schools about 400,000 pupils, and for the maintenance of these schools, in addition to the funds provided by local taxation, the state pays a total sum of \$1,500,000. Of these 400,000 pupils, about 10,000 are enrolled in high schools, and for these high schools, in addition to local taxation the state provides the sum of \$145,000. More than this—the several institutions for higher education, supported in whole or in part by state funds, enroll at the most 2500 students from Virginia, and toward providing for the education of these 2500, in addition to sums from other sources, the state provides \$500,000. It is, therefore, not hard to see that a large part of the money spent for education by the state of Virginia goes to the fortunate few who are able to carry their education to the point of the college or the high school. Statistics for the United States show that the average school term in this country is $5\frac{1}{2}$ years; that is, taking it as an average, our boys and girls beginning at 7 stop school at the age of $12\frac{1}{2}$ years; for all who attend longer than that there must be an equal number who attend less than that in order to maintain that as an average. It, therefore, becomes apparent that in the United States a very large number of boys and girls never have any opportunity for school work beyond the age of 10, 11 or 12 years, and these are the boys and girls who would be benefited or who might well be benefited by the es-

tablishment in every community of a free public library. These boys and girls, lacking in educational equipment and often in the physical development that goes with this, are unable to rise in the world and fill the lowest places in the ranks of our wage-earners. When our higher institutions of learning wish to make an appeal for increased funds for carrying on their great and important work they send men of eloquence to plead their cause in our legislative halls, and shall no one be found to speak one word of appeal for the uplifting of this uneducated and untrained mass that annually leaves the public schools with an education not only not completed but not even fairly begun? Does not the state owe this class something? Ought it not counterbalance the large sums given to the fortunate few who go to high schools and colleges by giving at least something to the unfortunate many whose education is cut off in the tender years of youth?

To summarize briefly: the work that the Library association of Virginia has mapped out for itself and the work in which it invites the most earnest and cordial coöperation is this: To introduce at the next session of the legislature in 1912 a bill providing that the powers of the present State library board shall be enlarged so as to include all the powers delegated in other states to a State library commission. To give to the board for the purpose of carrying on this work sufficient appropriation to employ an organizer who shall do the work I have attempted to outline in these remarks. The amount of money needed would be small at first and would never rise to a very large sum, and the importance and value of the work that would come within the scope of activity of such a board would be second only to the great work done by our State department of education, with which, indeed, it would be in close and immediate coöperation; for, to finish as I began, it is beyond reasonable doubt that the "Public library is an integral part of public education."

N. E. A. and A. L. A. Meetings

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In your issue of January, 1911, you printed a letter from "Library teacher," in which the action of the American library association and the National education association was criticized for the proposed conventions in California, in May and in July.

The National education association, in July, 1910, practically decided that San Francisco was the most desirable place to hold its "1911" convention. No formal vote of the board of directors was taken, but this is substantially the fact. The American library association was notified to this effect, by telegram, from Boston. The Library section of the N. E. A. voted as follows:

Resolved, That the Library section of the National education association send a protest to the American library association against the present custom of holding its annual meeting on approximately the same date as the National education association, thus making it very difficult to procure representative librarians as speakers, and impossible for its members to attend both conventions.

On July 13, 1910, I, as president of the Library section of the National education association, communicated with the president of the American library association and suggested that the American library association meet with the National education association in July, 1911, in San Francisco, naming conditions under which final business arrangements between the two bodies could probably be made. The American library association rejected these overtures and proceeded to call a meeting in California in May, at a time when it will be impossible for a large number of its members to be present.

I would very respectfully call your attention to the fact, therefore, that the lack of coöperation may not be accredited to the National education association. This association has shown its interest in library matters by the continuation of its library section and by the suggested joint meeting of the two bodies.

EDWIN WHITE GAILLARD,

Time of Meeting of A. L. A.

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I wish to present an argument for placing the date of the meeting of the A. L. A. later in the year. There are usually better rates given in July. There surely would be better rates this year on account of the N. E. A. meeting.

The May meeting is inopportune from the fact that the universities and normal schools are still in session. The librarians cannot leave advantageously.

Furthermore, when one makes an expensive trip to the far West, he should stay a month or more. This would be possible if the vacation of the librarian should occur during the month of the meeting.

Furthermore, I understand from people who have been in Pasadena during the summer months that the weather is delightful all summer, although the spring rains leave the vegetation fresh and green in May.

I am sure the present date will inconvenience, if it does not prevent, many of the university and normal school librarians from attending.

HENRY O. SEVERANCE.

University of Missouri.

Deterioration of Periodical Literature

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Permit me to voice a regret, strongly felt of late years in many quarters, that the number of periodicals devoted to pure literature, literary criticism and philosophy of literature is steadily diminishing. Speaking of America only, we are furthermore oppressed by the fact that some of the periodicals of literary methods and events now lingering, deteriorate in character. Some are ponderous, self-satisfied of tone and editorship; others have grown frivolous and professionally unreliable. Never before was there such a state, never before has literary criticism been at a lower ebb than at present. Never was there in America a greater need of a periodical reflecting the literary movements of the times in all their aspects,

criticizing literary effort in an unbiased manner, surveying the whole field of events and standing for a united effort along the line of national ideals.

Such a periodical would be of great help to library interests generally, as well as to librarians. It would embrace within its scope the numerous sidelights of library work that now must be sought in many different places.

If names were not odious, many shocking examples might be stated of the lightheartedness with which certain literary periodicals at present approach serious matters. Let this one suffice: A recent issue of an eastern magazine devoted to literary criticism contains an article on a timely topic, Tolstoi. The matter is poor enough, but one accompanying illustration bearing the inscription, "The last farewell—Tolstoi leaving home," is worse—though even more timely than the text. The illustration shows Tolstoi in his home garb outside the entrance of his residence. An elderly woman (conceivably Mme Tolstoi) is supposedly seeking to detain him, but Tolstoi looking inexorable, strides forward, leaving his home forever. "The last farewell—Tolstoi leaving home"—touching indeed!

The observing reader is not supposed to stop and consider the impossibility of the scene: That Tolstoi and his wife would have posed before a photographer at the moment when, of all times, witnesses would best be absent. As a matter of fact, however, Tolstoi left his home the last time in a way entirely different from that indicated by the picture. And, above all, the illustration is one that has been circulated widely, and for some time, in various magazines and newspapers. It is a portrait of Tolstoi and his sister at the entrance of Tolstoi's home. The editorial inscription is the purest fabric of fiction.

And we bind such matter, shelve it, index and refer our readers to it for true and authoritative information!

B.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post-office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates

In caring for subscriptions to PUBLIC LIBRARIES, some perplexity as to just how the subscription is to be entered has been found. It would be a helpful thing if all subscribers would plainly state whether the subscription is a personal one or whether it is intended to be entered in the name of the library. It is not possible at a distance to tell just what is meant, and both time and money are lost in correspondence in regard to the matter. A little attention to this small point would make matters easier for all concerned.

Reading advertisements—A member of a firm which has made considerable investment in trying to meet the demands and wishes of librarians, in speaking of the business relations with them recently, had this to say:

Librarians as a class are a people who are very slow to take up with a new idea or even to take advantage of a new proposition in a businesslike way. Even when they are getting a book at half or quarter price, they will write to us and say, "Is there any discount to libraries?" "Do you pay the express?" Then

perhaps in another month, or even two months' time, they will send in a small order.

In the matter of reinforced bindings, the orders have been so slow that it has been questionable how far we are warranted in keeping these things in stock. Sometimes the supply goes rather well and those coming in late cannot be supplied. Then they raise the cry that the reinforced bindings are not kept in stock. If the librarians realized what the reinforced bindings meant and would consider that they are getting for 10 cents additional a binding that would actually save them from 25 cents to 35 cents in rebinding, it would seem that they would jump at it. But they seem very indifferent on the subject.

While this perhaps is rather a sweeping statement to apply to librarians as a class, there is still enough truth in it to take the matter under consideration. Certainly in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, and presumably elsewhere, great care is observed in presenting the advertisements in the pages of the periodical. Several times when to have taken advertisements offered would have meant a good sum on the balance side of the income, the copy has been refused because the management was of the opinion that the firms offering the advertisements were not interested in the libraries' welfare, or the material offered for sale was inferior in quality and purpose.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES feels justified therefore in saying that those who offer their material in its advertising pages are firms worthy in every way of confidence, and urges the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES to give close attention to the offers made by its advertisers. Moreover, when further information is offered through catalogs or otherwise, the librarians are advised to investigate at least, to see how the offer made affects the particular problems they are trying to meet.

In this day when every dollar of library money is expected to do the work of two,

reputable advertisers who go to the expense and trouble of presenting opportunities in their line to the libraries, ought to meet at least the reciprocal advantage of examination by librarians, of material offered.

Concentration—In a recent discussion relating to affiliation with the A. L. A., it was questioned whether it was a wise thing to break up the membership into so many distinct parts as was coming to be the case by affiliation. There is some ground for the question. It may be carried further, and one may ask, even, why bring so many sections into the association? It is a question if the greatest power for good in the A. L. A. would not arise from a strong concentration of interest in it as a national body, by the presentation of subject for thought suitable to such a body, whose word of influence would be a word of power sought for by other national bodies that make for the betterment of the intellectual life.

The State and smaller organizations can care adequately for many questions that now come before the A. L. A., and they might well be relegated to the former. Such a course would raise the A. L. A. to a higher plane of action, and lead, undoubtedly, to consequent power for usefulness in every form of library work in the general plan of human effort.

One may regard with respect, though not indorsing, the ideas of those who wish to confine their support of the A. L. A. to some particular emphasis of their own field work. This latter at times is a very praiseworthy thing to do, but as a general proposition, the American Library Association ought to be a place for librarians of all kinds and

classes to get inspiration, information and recreation on general grounds.

In discussing a recent matter of interest to librarians, Dr Putnam, librarian of Congress, expressed the thought, "We are all Americans; that is to say, librarians of the American continent—we are all librarians, and there is no good reason why all should not belong to the same organization." There is much material for serious consideration in the words of Dr Putnam.

Other organizations of a similar grade to the A. L. A. have found it a mistake to have so many sections and departments in their organizations, and really a large number of their members have come to the conclusion that they do not want so much specializing in the organization. Is it necessary, therefore, for the A. L. A. to gain this knowledge through its own experience, or shall it not take the opinion of the N. E. A., for instance, or the A. A. A. S., and consider calmly and wisely whether it is a good thing for the library profession, regardless of pleasing this one or that one, to consider whether the A. L. A. shall be cut into unmanageable, valueless strips or be a strong, compact body, to discuss national library needs and to add its power to other national associations that are making the world a better place to live in, and making a more intelligent people to inhabit it?

To paraphrase the words of another: Library work is still passing through a test, a strain and a judgment that tempt much discussion. This ought to lead, not to controversy, but to a movement that will shift what needs shifting and clear the ground for a larger view and for wise, free action.

American Library Association Southern California Conference, 1911**Preliminary announcement of the travel committee**

The decision to hold the next meeting in Pasadena offers an opportunity to see California at much less expense and under much more favorable conditions than ordinarily. Exact figures are not possible until definite rate has been settled by the railroads, but at this time an approximate can be given and the skeleton of itinerary proposed by this committee. The route has been decided as most nearly meeting the wishes of those expecting to take the trip and gives a rather remarkable opportunity to see the principal features of our West and Southwest, including the Rocky mountains. Two methods of making the trip are possible: one by a personally conducted party, by special train out, and opportunity to return either with the party or by any other route at any time during the summer; the other by individual journey, having the benefit of the reduced railroad rates and, if desired, travel by tourist sleeper instead of Pullman.

The proposed itinerary of the party will be made up in consultation with those familiar with the region to be visited, as giving the maximum of variety and covering the most notable features of that part of our country.

During the week at Pasadena it is assumed that side trips will be made by the delegates to the various points of interest thereabouts—Los Angeles, Mt Lowe, Mt Wilson, Riverside and Mt Robidoux, Redlands, Long Beach, Catalina Island off the coast, and possibly to San Diego and Coronado Beach, the extreme southwestern corner of the United States. The expense of such trips is not included in the party ticket, nor the cost of the week at the conference in Pasadena (Hotel Maryland is headquarters, and ample chance nearby for accommodations at somewhat less rate if desired). There is no doubt that special excursion rates will be made to the various points of interest mentioned, and an extra day

after the adjournment of the conference is allowed in order thoroughly to cover the region.

Leaving Pasadena on the homeward journey the party will travel north by the famous coast line over the "Road of a thousand wonders," stopping first at Santa Barbara, where a visit will be made to the old Mission, one of the best preserved and most beautiful of the historic line of old missions extending from San Diego to San Francisco, built nearly 200 years ago by the Spanish fathers. The Santa Barbara mission is still occupied, and with its attractive gardens and beautiful location forms one of the attractions of the state.

At old Monterey two nights will be spent at Hotel Del Monte, famous the world over for its location and beautiful grounds, with palms and cacti, and here the famous 17-mile drive along the coast to the old cypress grove will be taken.

At Santa Cruz there will be a chance to visit the grove of big trees; at Palo Alto a stop in order to inspect the Leland Stanford Jr university.

Arriving at San Francisco the party will spend three days, which will give opportunity to visit Oakland, the State university at Berkeley, the Golden Gate park and to ascend Mt Tamalpais. An expedition to the new Chinatown will also be of interest.

The Yosemite national park trip will be offered for those who wish to prolong their stay on the coast five days at an extra expense of about \$40, which amount will not include the day and a-half trip when in the park to the Mariposa grove of big trees, though time will be allowed so that those who wish, may take this coaching trip at an expense of \$15 extra. The committee believes that having seen the big trees near Santa Cruz many will not feel it worth while to go to the expense of the Mariposa grove.

If sufficient numbers wish the Yosemite stop-over, a specially conducted party will be made up to return by the same route as the first party only five days later. All those who are thinking

of taking this trip to the coast whether by special party or independently should write to F. W. Faxon, chairman, travel committee, 83 Francis street, Boston, Mass., stating whether they wish to take in Yosemite or not. An approximate idea of the number in the party to the coast and for Yosemite can thus be gained which will greatly aid the committee in working out the details of the trip.

From San Francisco, starting eastward, stop will be made at Sacramento for a few hours to visit the state capitol and see that beautiful city. Then Salt Lake City, the headquarters of the Mormons, will be visited, whence a day ride by train through the heart of the Rockies will bring the party to Colorado Springs and Manitou, where a day or two can be spent. The ascent of Pike's Peak, the drive through the Garden of the Gods, trolley trip to the North and South Cheyenne canyons and a visit to the Cripple Creek gold fields are among the many possibilities. Then, to end the sightseeing, a day in Denver with opportunity to visit the new Public library.

In a later announcement the committee will give the railroad rates, the Pullman and tourist car rates and a list of the various lines over which this trip may be made. It will also be arranged that those going out with the special party can return home by the northern routes from Portland and Seattle, with opportunity, if desired, to visit Yellowstone Park, or go through the Canadian Rockies.

FREDERICK W. FAXON,
Chairman A. L. A. travel committee.

The print department in the New York public library has arranged an exhibition in the gallery of the Lenox library building under the title of "Paris etchings." The pictures of Meryon occupy the place of honor, while the whole exhibit amounts to a delightful ramble through the highways and byways of Paris under the guidance of those who best know its points of beauty and interest. A different Paris, seen with different temperaments, is presented by the various artists included.

Midwinter Library Meetings

Executive board

At the A. L. A. executive board meeting on January 5, a committee was appointed to confer with publishers and newspapers as to the deterioration of the paper used, as follows: Frank P. Hill, chairman; Cedric Chivers and H. G. Wadlin.

The committee on nominations for 1911 was appointed as follows: A. E. Bostwick, W. H. Brett, W. L. Brown, Mary F. Isom and Mary E. Hazeltine.

The consideration of the date for the A. L. A. conference hinged on the difference in transportation rates in May and June. Railroad announcements which will be due Feb. 1 will help to decide the matter. If the date already selected, May 18, will cause too great a difference the date will be changed.

The treasurer, Carl B. Roden, also showed the receipts for 1910 to have been \$10,334.54; expenditures, \$7,908.57. The amount of the credits in the bank, interest, etc., left a balance on hand January 3 of \$3,192.56.

The finance committee reported the estimated income for 1910 as \$6,800. The actual income amounted to \$6,959. The finance committee is of the opinion that the question of the disposal of the balance of the appropriation should be settled. The committee is of the opinion that these balances should be debited with expenses properly chargeable against them and the remainder added to the surplus. The chairman of the finance committee reported that the committee had audited the accounts of the secretary and had found that the receipts as stated by the treasurer agreed with the treasurer's checks and the cash accounts of the latter. It is the opinion of the chairman that in future the receipts both of the association and the publishing board should be summarized and reported monthly and those of the publishing board at least should be transferred to the treasurer monthly.

The committee has designated E. H. Anderson of New York city to audit the accounts of the trustees, and the results

will be made a part of the monthly report of the finance committee to the association at its annual meeting.

The resignation of Chalmers Hadley as secretary of the A. L. A. was presented and the board voted that of necessity the resignation be accepted. By a unanimous vote George B. Utley of Florida was appointed to succeed Mr Hadley, with a salary of \$2,100 for the year 1911.

A communication from A. S. Root, chairman of the committee on library training, repeated again its request for an appropriation for the purpose of inspecting the library schools. The committee decided that the request could not be complied with.

James L. Gillis was appointed to succeed Asa Don Dickinson, who resigned from the committee on work with the blind.

Publishing board

Mr Roden, as treasurer, reported for 1910 as follows:

Receipts

P. B. Wright, retiring treasurer..	\$ 1,801.33
Carnegie trustee fund.....	2,245.23
Headquarters collection.....	5,358.54
Trustees Carnegie fund.....	2,000.00
Chalmers Hadley headquarters collection	1,510.79
Interest on bank balance, January-December	21.16
Total	\$12,937.05

Expenditures

Credits, checks 1-18.....	\$12,074.21
Balance Union Trust Company, Chicago	862.84
Credit, National Bank of Republic	250.00
Carnegie fund, interest.....	1,772.21
Headquarters, cash box.....	163.25
Total	\$ 3,048.30

The press proofs of the A. L. A. *Booklist* can no longer be sent under the second-class postal rates, so the board voted to discontinue the printing of the booklist press proofs and to send two copies to all unexpired subscriptions for the press proofs.

It was voted on account of the increased cost of printing the A. L. A. *Booklist* to make the subscription price as follows:

For bulk subscriptions:

For annual subscriptions.....\$0.40
For addressing and mailing.....1 cent

For individual copies:

For one subscription.....\$1.00
For additional copies up to 10.. .50 each
For 10 or more copies......40 each
For mailing and changes in address, additional.

The board voted to have an annual supplement to the index of the *Bulletin*. Miss Bascom reported on the supplement of the A. L. A. 1904 catalog and stated that the list of out-of-print books in the catalog was prepared and that the list of new editions in the 1904 catalog was nearly completed. The board agreed to include 1910 publications in the supplement to the A. L. A. catalog, 1904, and also agreed to include 3000 titles in the supplement.

The proposed removal of the booklist office from Madison, Wis., to the executive office in Chicago was postponed until the next meeting of the board.

Mrs H. L. Elmendorf reported on a revised list of subject headings and said that while good progress was being made that the work could not be completed before the end of the current year.

The publishing board agreed to increase the appropriation toward the expenses of the A. L. A. executive office in Chicago, \$1500 to \$2000 a year.

It was voted that the chairman and Mr Bostwick be appointed with power to arrange for an index to library reports at an expense not to exceed \$300.

George B. Utley was appointed to succeed Chalmers Hadley, who had resigned as secretary.

Council meeting

The midwinter meeting of the A. L. A. council was held in Chicago on Jan. 6, with 26 members in attendance. President Wyer voiced again the appreciation of the council and association over the continued generosity of the trustees of the Chicago public library.

The committee appointed by the president to report on special library association for affiliation with the A. L. A. submitted the following points:

On general principles the committee

prefers the formation of a section of the A. L. A. rather than of a separate organization when it is a question of one or the other. The affiliation would tend to attract to the annual conference a number of desirable members who might not attend otherwise at all. These members could hardly fail to impart fresh interest to the discussion and to suggest fresh topics worthy of investigation.

On the other hand, since there is necessarily much common ground in the field occupied by the two associations, the younger of the two ought to profit largely by the experience of the members of the senior organization. The committee believes that it would be possible to offset the admitted drawback of increasing the complexity of future A. L. A. programs and of the rather vague scope of the special libraries association, a vagueness which will doubtless be remedied as time goes on.

C. H. GOULD, Chairman.

A. E. BOSTWICK.

C. W. ANDREWS.

The wide divergence of sincere feeling in the matter made it advisable to make a special order of business so that other subjects might be disposed of. It was therefore made a special order of business at 12 o'clock for further consideration.

A report of the committee on affiliation of the State library association with the A. L. A. to the council sets forth the following points:

Answers from 22 state library associations at the meeting at Mackinac and the idea of formal connection between the state and national bodies is a new one to most of the associations. It therefore seemed desirable that the investigations should be continued for that reason and also that the idea and methods of procedure might be presented by the secretary of the A. L. A. at the time of his visit to the fall meetings of the several associations in a practical way to secure definite discussion of the subject.

The requests to be presented by the secretary were as follows:

1) Do you believe it would strengthen the association of your state if the A. L.

A. required membership in the State association as a condition for membership in the A. L. A.?

2) Would an official delegate to the A. L. A. conference bring your association into closer touch and sympathy with the aims and purposes of the national body?

3) What action would you think desirable on the part of the A. L. A. to give recognition to such state delegates?

4) Should there be any financial obligation between the State associations and the A. L. A.

5) Kindly give any suggestions as to how a closer relation may be brought about between the A. L. A. and your State association.

As a result of these presentations by the secretary, communications have been received from library associations in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, North Dakota and Kansas. The reports may be summarized as follows:

Michigan favored the idea of affiliation and suggested that a program committee of the A. L. A. place on the program a round table meeting for the officers of the State association and others interested to consider some of the problems of the State association and its work as it relates to that of the national organization.

Minnesota favored the idea and believed that some method of affiliation would result in mutual benefit to the State association and the A. L. A., and Minnesota is ready to cooperate in carrying out any plans formulated by the committee.

Iowa, by a special committee, reported that in their judgment it would be unwise and unfair to require membership in the libraries to require membership in the A. L. A. as a condition for membership in a state organization. The committee recommends that the subject be considered at the next meeting of both state and national associations.

Illinois. The committee reported that they required membership in the State association as a requisite for membership in the A. L. A., but was of the opinion that it would not immediately strengthen

the A. L. A., and might therefore be unwise at the present time. It was thought that a delegate would not only keep the State association in closer touch and sympathy with the national body, but also would keep the A. L. A. more closely in sympathy with library work in general. The mutual benefits would probably be more definite in the case of strong associations or states near the place of holding the conference. The traveling expenses, however, might create a problem. The delegate to the A. L. A. should be asked to make a report on the library work in his state, and might well be afforded a seat (but no vote) in the A. L. A. council. The list of delegates should be published in the A. L. A. bulletin. (Hand-book and conference proceedings.)

There should be annual dues paid by the State association. These dues might be uniform for all associations, \$25 the minimum price, or the amount might be based on the number of paid-up members of the State associations, say 20 cents per member. A round table meeting of the state officers or other accredited delegates of the state association might be held at the A. L. A. conference to discuss problems connected with the work of the State associations.

Indiana. The following answers to the requests were given by the association:

Question 1—Answer: No.

Question 2—Answer: Perhaps.

Question 3—Answer: Allow the State association to elect a member of the council.

Question 4—Answer: No.

Question 5—Answer: Perhaps a round table discussion by active presidents and delegates about State association work.

The communication also had the following pledges:

If any other lines of action are taken up looking toward helpful coöperation, the Indiana library association pledges its interest and support.

The North Dakota state association adopted the following approval of a plan that would bring about coöperation between the libraries of the country. We

commend especially the appointment of a representative from each state association to the A. L. A. who shall be admitted to the meetings of the council.

Kansas assured the A. L. A. of its earnest coöperation and hopes to send a delegate to the annual meeting of said association whenever possible. The responses indicated the sentiment of representative library associations of the middle West and as such afford suggestions.

Conclusions of the A. L. A. committee

The committee agreed that the following facts are evident:

1) Practically all are agreed that an official representative from the State association to the A. L. A. annual meetings would identify the State association more closely with the national body.

2) The A. L. A. could in some way give this delegate recognition at the annual meeting. A round table provided on the A. L. A. program is desirable where reports could be received, questions relating to matters could be discussed, circuits of state district association meetings planned to avoid conflict of dates and arrangements made for an A. L. A. speaker. Such a round table, if provided on the program of the A. L. A. for next year, would afford opportunity for the discussion of the questions now under consideration as to the desirability of official connection or federation and the methods therefor.

As to question 4, regarding financial obligations, no plan as yet has taken form in the minds of those who are considering this matter sufficiently definite to be presented. Formal connection of the State association with the A. L. A. would certainly necessitate an annual fee. If the privileges of an A. L. A. speaker at A. L. A. expense should be a part of the plan, the fee should be large enough to justify the expense.

If a flexible amount consisting of a per capita fee from the state association is recommended, the larger and stronger association would with justice contribute much more to the A. L. A. fund while

receiving no greater benefits. If a fixed annual fee be named, regardless of the size of the state association, it would hardly seem equitable. In either case the affiliated or federated state association should be entitled to a speaker sent by the A. L. A., either its president or a librarian of national reputation, who would come for an address without any further cost to the state association. It would seem that such speaker might also be available for State associations not federated but at the expense of the State association.

The following points are suggested for special consideration:

If some formal consideration is considered advisable, does the council favor providing a round table of the officers or representatives of the State library association at the next meeting of the A. L. A.?

Does the council favor recognition of the representative of the State association by a seat in the council, and if so, simply as a courtesy or with a vote? If with a vote, what changes in the constitution would be necessary?

Would the council favor a sufficiently large fee from the State associations to provide for the A. L. A. speakers' expenses in attendance at the state meetings?

ALICE S. TYLER, Chairman.

S. H. RANCK.

F. P. HILL.

Net fiction

The next topic for discussion was in regard to net fiction and was made by Carl B. Roden on behalf of the committee on book-buying. Mr. Roden made a verbal report, of which the following is the substance:

With the opening of the current season a number of American publishers began to issue their new fiction upon the net price basis at prices ranging from \$1 to \$1.40, and even to \$1.50, all net, from which no discount may be allowed except to libraries, and to them not more than 10 per cent. The reasons given by the publishers are familiar ones, namely, the necessity of protecting the retail dealer

against indiscriminate price-cutting and the increase in cost of materials. By this move libraries are obliged to suffer a very material advance over their former rate on new fiction, a \$1.35 novel now costing the libraries \$1.21½ net. It seems to the committee that the libraries have a just cause for complaint against this reduction in discount, which involves a greater increase in cost of fiction to them than to the individual purchaser of single copies, for whose benefit the whole machinery of the retail trade has to be maintained.

Moreover, I am convinced that the 10 per cent discount (which hardly represents the true difference in actual selling cost between handling individual sales and library orders) was not fixed as the result of a careful, scientific effort to arrive at a fair basis of differentiation, and that the booksellers themselves, with whom we deal, were not consulted. I believe that, if we could get an expression of opinion from the dealers, we should find that they would agree to a higher rate of discount for their library customers.

My recommendation, therefore, is as follows: that the book-buying committee be instructed to endeavor to secure an expression of opinion from booksellers doing business with libraries as to the proper and practicable discount which ought to be allowed to libraries on purchases of new net fiction.

In the discussion that followed several speakers expressed the opinion that the increased price of net fiction was not benefiting materially the retail bookseller. Purd B. Wright said he believed that the booksellers were making less money on the \$1.50 net fiction rules than formerly and that the publishers were the ones who were profiting by the new rules regarding net fiction.

An extract from a letter written by Miss Marvin of Oregon expressed the protest against the public library discontinuing to any extent its purchase of wholesome fiction. Public libraries are almost as important in offering wholesome recreation as in their educational work, and as each year increases the ex-

tent of questionable recreation for both old and young, I believe we ought not to consider lessening the library supply of decent fiction. Most taxpayers are just as willing to support libraries for this purpose as for any other, and that by cutting off the supply of fiction we should cut off numbers of readers who are entitled to library service.

The committee was instructed to secure an expression of opinion from booksellers doing business with libraries as to the proper and practicable discount which ought to be allowed to libraries on the purchase of new net fiction and to report to the next meeting of the council.

A communication from M. Oscar Grojean in regard to action at the Brussels conference on the international cataloging code was then read. The council voted to refer the communication to the A. L. A. committee on international relations.

It was the sense of the meeting as expressed by Mr Putnam, that "as librarians the A. L. A. welcomes the project and this opportunity to participate in the proposed international cataloging code."

The council expressed the approval of the plans for the organization proposed by the catalog section of the A. L. A.

A request was then read from librarians of agricultural libraries asking that the council establish an agricultural section of the A. L. A. The petition complied with the requirements of the A. L. A. constitution and by-laws and was referred to a special committee appointed by the president.

Mr Andrews made an informal report of the Brussels conference and presented to the council an informal request from Mr Shaw of Liverpool that American librarians consider meeting either officially or as individuals with the British library association at its meeting at Liverpool in 1912.

The hour for special business having arrived, a letter from the librarian of the H. M. Byllesby company, Chicago, a member of the A. L. A. and also a member of the Special library association, was read. She entered a strong protest, giv-

ing reasons why she thought it unwise to receive the Special library association on any other basis except as a section of the A. L. A. She was joined by the majority of the special librarians in Chicago in her opinion that a section of the A. L. A. would offer ample opportunity for discussion of such special problems as existed, and were opposed to a special libraries development except as a section of the A. L. A. All the librarians in business houses in Chicago and vicinity who were members of the A. L. A. previous to the beginning of the Special library association were in accord with the opinion that the Special library association covered a field which is not already covered by the A. L. A., but which could easily be made to do so. When the membership of the Special library association is boiled down, eliminating from their list published in April, 1910, the names of those already connected with the A. L. A. or National association of state libraries, college libraries, technical libraries, many public libraries and so on, there are not more than a dozen libraries that are active in the Special library association. The others are members in name only and their interest has been to be in line to receive the much-talked-of publications of the special library association, annual dues at the start including a subscription to the publication. It will be found that those who have been standing for the Special library associations represent distinctively public library interests and that the business library field which the Special library association is supposed to serve largely is exceedingly small.

There are few purely business libraries worthy of the name, and the greatest need is for librarians who can bring the material of the public or technical libraries to the immediate use of the firms which employ them. There are small collections of books found in various business houses very inadequately administered by people who have had no library experience whatever, much less library training. These are they who are calling most loudly for a separate association.

In the general meaning of the word "affiliated" in this case, the danger lies in affiliating such associations and in so dignifying their work by an undue standing in the A. L. A., which cannot but undoubtedly result in the lowering of the high library standards of professional work for which A. L. A. has so long stood.

At the meeting of the Special library association at Mackinac, when the proposition was made to ask the A. L. A. to admit the Special library association as an affiliated society, there were not more than a dozen voting members present. The writer suggested from the floor of that meeting that before the important step was taken in determining the relation of this association to the A. L. A. there should be an endeavor to ascertain the wishes of the several reported members of the Special library association who were not present, and that the question as to whether the Special library association should ask to become a section of the A. L. A. or an affiliated association should be thoroughly written up in the publication *Special Libraries* before any action was taken. The reply was that if the membership of the Special library association was not interested enough to be present at the meeting they did not care probably what the association did. This is certainly true, and as not more than seven voted affirmatively, it only proves the point that I have been trying to make, that the Special library association represents probably less than a dozen working libraries who are drawing for help as far as possible upon the well organized general libraries which are already interested in the A. L. A. Not a day goes by that someone who has been appointed for reasons other than he knows clearly what he is trying to do calls on the several trained librarians in our vicinity for the simplest information, and this leads me to say that the character and knowledge of many of those who are insisting on being a separate body from the A. L. A. discredit the value of their opinion in the matter. There is undoubtedly something which

might be done in the A. L. A. in giving attention to technical libraries, perhaps the issuance of technical lists by the Publishing Board, which can be done through a technical section, but the kind of close cooperation of which the Special library association has talked much, and achieved nothing, between so-called special libraries and the business world, is impractical because business houses do not exist for cooperation but rather to advance their own interests. A Special library association offers an excellent means of personal advertising, and it will not be long before there is a field of rivalry with different business firms. These statements may seem to be rather pronounced, but from the viewpoint of a special librarian who had studied both the general and special fields very closely and has had experience in both, it is quite a conservative statement and much more might be said. I strongly hold that there is place for all kinds of library workers who really want help in the A. L. A., in the catalog section, in reference section and in the general meetings. And then there is the State librarians' association."

After the reading of Miss Krause's letter, considerable discussion followed and very decided opinions were expressed by Dr Herbert Putnam, Miss M. E. Ahern, Henry E. Legler, G. T. Bowerman, P. B. Wright, Lutie E. Stearns and others. Interest in the work which the association had performed and its plans for the future was expressed, but it was the belief of the majority of those present that further information should lie before the council before final action was taken. It was voted to defer further consideration of the question of affiliation until the next meeting of the council. The program committee of the A. L. A. was directed to make provision for a meeting of the Special library association at the Pasadena conference of the A. L. A.

Meeting of Library school instructors

In response to a call sent out by Phineas L. Windsor, chairman of the A. L. A. section on professional training for librarianship, a conference of members of

library school faculties was held at the John Crerar library, Chicago, Jan. 5, in connection with the other midwinter meetings. The following schools were represented: Atlanta, Drexel, Illinois, Indiana, Pratt, School of education of the University of Chicago, Simmons, Western reserve and Wisconsin, with a total attendance of 16. The New York State library school was represented by the director at the luncheon preceding the meeting and by a letter from the vice-director.

The meeting was entirely unofficial and informal. Mr Windsor was made chairman and Miss Eastman secretary. The following topics were discussed, a tentative list of which was sent out with the call for the meeting:

1) Do we use the most approved pedagogical methods in our classroom work? Do we lecture too much and give too few quizzes, conferences and reviews? Do we depend too much on the student's taking full notes when the proper use of printed outlines or carefully selected required readings, supplemented by a few notes, would yield better results? Shall the course in cataloging be put at the beginning of the course or later? How much do we use the stereopticon?

2) Are the subjects now in our curricula properly balanced? Is too much time given to learning cataloging and other routine, and consequently too little to a consideration of methods of extending the use of the library by the public?

3) Would it be practicable for several schools to secure a lecturer on some special subject in library economy who should give the regular work in that subject in each of these schools? An example of a beginning in this direction is Edna Lyman's work in several schools?

4) Would it be possible for several schools to combine in securing a lecturer each year to give a short series of lectures on some one subject, these lectures to be seriously worked up and to be published after being delivered? The final publi-

cation of the lectures and the combined remuneration from several schools might be a sufficient incentive to capable persons to do their best work.

5) Is it as easy to secure transfer of credit from one school to another as it should be?

6) Is it desirable, and if desirable, is it practicable to make the work of the first year of the two-year schools and the work of the one-year schools more nearly alike? Many junior students in a two-year school enter library work without taking the senior year's work; if the courses in one-year schools are better preparation for library work than the first year's work of the two-year schools, then these juniors are at a disadvantage as compared with students from a one-year school. Some students in the one-year schools may wish to go to a two-year school and take a second year of training; as the courses are at present arranged, this second year's work is almost impossible, because it does not fit on to the work that the student has had.

American Bibliographical society.

A meeting of the American Bibliographical society was held at Hitchcock hall, University of Chicago, on the afternoon of January 4, Dr. A. S. Root, of Oberlin, presiding.

In the morning the association was welcomed by Dr. Barton, of the U. of C. library, and later shown over the campus, special attention being paid to the plans of, and extent of the work on, the new Harper memorial library. The society was the guest of the University for lunch.

The first paper was presented by Dr. A. C. Van Nöe, University of Chicago. His subject was "The International institutes for bibliographies of the social sciences, medicine, technology and jurisprudence." The second paper presented was by R. J. Usher, of the John Crerar library, on "The bibliography of the Communistic manifesto."

Reports from several committees were received and there was considerable discussion.

A meeting of the college and university librarians of the Middle West

The second annual meeting of the college and university librarians of the Middle West was called to order on Jan. 6 in the directors' room of the Chicago public library. Walter M. Smith, of the University of Wisconsin, was elected chairman.

Malcolm G. Wyer opened the discussion on book selection and purchase and the distribution of book funds in college and university libraries. Book selection is not a large question for the librarian at the University of Iowa (nor at most of the universities), as by far the larger share of the book money is spent by the professors. A comparatively small amount of money is left at the disposal of the librarian. The question arises as to whether the librarian should make up lists of desiderata in different fields not looked after by the faculty, or buy here and there as opportunity offers. The answers would seem to depend largely upon the library. A new library needs rounding out, while in an older one much of the librarian's discretionary fund may have to go for new editions of old reference books, replacements, the filling out of sets of periodicals, with now and then a try at the auction sales and some purchases of "remainders" which could not be afforded were it not for the reduction in price. A discussion of the respective merits of an American and a European agent led naturally to the report of Dr Lichtenstein on the scheme of coöperative purchases and shipments from Europe entered into by the University of Chicago, the John Crerar, the Newberry, the Chicago public and the Northwestern university library. As this report has been printed separately and can be had by those specially interested by applying to the director of the University of Chicago Press it need not be summarized here.

Mr Windsor presented the problems of the A. L. A. analytical cards. He said that he did not care to discuss the

advantages of the cards nor the problems connected with our rapidly growing card catalogs, but purposed to confine himself to the problems confronting those libraries which were receiving the Library of Congress cards and using the subject entries suggested on the latter. To these libraries the service of the A. L. A. card work seemed naturally much inferior. We all take pride in this A. L. A. undertaking and remember that in the beginning it was pioneer work in the field of printed cards. The suggestions for the betterment of the work were offered in the friendliest spirit and the fact that much of the A. L. A. coöperative work was gratuitous in its nature was not lost sight of in comparing it with the Library of Congress card work, which has the United States government back of it. Financial considerations enter largely into the matter. The question naturally arises, "Why not turn over the printing of the A. L. A. analytical cards to the Library of Congress and have the latter carry a complete stock so that subscribing libraries could secure the requisite number of cards for subject entries?" Would it not be practicable for the A. L. A. publishing board to reprint cards for such series as might be desired by five or six libraries? It was pointed out that serials of a miscellaneous nature where the papers were not monographic in character fell outside of the scope of the Library of Congress stock. The question arises as to whether the publishing board would print cards if copy were supplied for analyticals in sets desired by from five to ten subscribers. Users of the A. L. A. cards feel that the subject entries ought to be made to conform with the Library of Congress subject entries as far as possible. Hitherto, however, the task of unifying the subject entries suggested on the copy sent in has been all that the publishing board has been able to undertake.

In presenting the matter on behalf of the publishing board, Mr Andrews ex-

plained that the undertaking had been strictly coöperative and that the responsibility of the board had been limited in the past to the editorial supervision of the titles and distribution of the cards.

The selection of the serials to be analyzed had been made by the five co-operating libraries; of these two were university libraries, two public libraries and one occupied an intermediate position. The objects of these libraries were not the same. The public libraries desired to form indexes of current periodical literature. The other libraries had in mind the insertion in their card catalogs of the titles of important articles in general periodicals. Under such conditions a lack of homogeneity in the work was inevitable.

The concentration of the publishing interests of the association at headquarters has made it desirable at this time to revise the arrangement and the board has found that at least two of the co-operating libraries agree as to the necessity of such a revision. In doing this the board will have in mind the suggestions made by Mr Windsor. Mr Andrews believed that a sufficient number of subscriptions would warrant the reprinting of the back titles for any serial and that any new serials that were desired by the subscribers would be added. The form and type would be changed to correspond with that of the Library of Congress if any change in the arrangement for printing proved to be practicable. The subscribers would be asked if they preferred the Library of Congress subject headings to those of the A. L. A. list, which are not followed as closely as coöperative work makes possible.

Mr Andrews questioned whether this work should be carried on with a view to supplying inserts for the card catalog or for a special index of periodical literature, whether the serials and periodicals analyzed should include those devoted to special subjects or be confined to the more general serials, and

whether the minimum length of articles brought out should be made 10 or 15 pages instead of the present four pages.

Finally Mr Andrews stated that he had just received from H. W. Wilson Company a suggestion that much of the material now included in the work might be issued in a supplement to the "Reader's guide," and Mr Wilson himself had submitted a tentative estimate of a publishing cost of \$10 a 1000 titles for a subscription list of 20. This supplement would be issued quarterly and cumulate annually. The cost of the necessary editorial supervision of the work would be in addition to this amount, although if the number of subscriptions could be materially increased this expense also would be covered by it. Some of the librarians present said that if necessary their library would subscribe to several copies of such an index as that proposed.

Miss Olive Jones, of the Ohio state university library, spoke briefly on the question of classification in college and university libraries, reporting that in her library the Library of Congress scheme had recently been introduced to the general satisfaction of those most intimately concerned in the matter.

J. I. Wyer, jr., asked permission to read a portion of the chapter from the forthcoming A. L. A. book on library economy relating to college and university libraries. The part he read and on which he wished the opinion of those present related to the powers and functions of the library committee. From the discussion which followed it developed that only one library represented was without such a committee, that in most of them the meetings were at irregular periods, and the functions were in the main restricted to questions of the assignment of book funds.

The arrangements for next year's meeting were placed in the hands of a committee consisting of P. L. Windsor, chairman; J. C. M. Hanson and A. S. Root.

THEODORE W. KOCH, Sec'y.

League of Library Commissions Chicago meeting

The middle-west section of the League of library commissions held their annual mid-winter meeting on January 3-4, in Chicago, at the Congress hotel. There were 18 active commission workers present, six members of library commission boards, besides a number of librarians who were in Chicago for the various library meetings of the week. There were 11 commissions represented: Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In addition there were representatives from California and New York who were interested in library extension, although not directly engaged in commission work.

The first session opened on Tuesday afternoon, January 3, with President Clara Baldwin, of the league, in the chair. The general topic for discussion was rural extension from local centers. Mr Milam of Indiana opened the discussion. His chief point was that country people should get real service from libraries; that they should have as nearly as possible the same library facilities which people in cities now have, and that they can have such service only by making adequate financial returns. This matter of financial support was discussed at some length. Miss Templeton of Nebraska brought up the subject of a library post which is of particular interest to commission workers. In these days of state and county circulating libraries, with rural mail carriers going forth from every town and village, library facilities might be brought to the very doors of the most isolated if the book post rates were not so high as to be almost prohibitive. Resolutions were passed asking the executive board of the league to appoint a committee to consider a satisfactory library post bill and to plan methods for obtaining a favorable consideration of it by Congress. This committee is to report at the annual meeting of the league next summer.

On Wednesday morning a number of committees of the league reported. Mr

Milam told of the efforts which have been made to obtain second-class mail rates on commission bulletins. Miss Bascom, editor of the *A. L. A. Booklist*, reported the action of the publishing board in raising the price of the *Booklist* to commissions. The *Booklist* has been so enlarged in scope since the beginning of its publication that the original price is now insufficient to pay for the printing. Miss Hazeltine suggested that the editor include in the *Booklist* monographs on timely subjects. Since the labor of getting together such material would add considerably to the already heavy burdens of the editor, it was further proposed that the league might assist in this work through its publications committee.*

Mr Bliss of Pennsylvania then reported the work of the publications committee. He announced that arrangements have been made by which the A. L. A. publishing board will hereafter handle all of the league publications at A. L. A. headquarters. Since the last meeting of the league Miss Hassler's graded list of books for reading aloud has been reprinted as a league publication; the suggestive list of children's books prepared by the Wisconsin commission has been issued; and the Handbook of the league is ready for distribution. Mr Dudgeon spoke of the need of preparing suitable outlines for study clubs.

Mr Dudgeon reported, as chairman of the committee on revision of the constitution, the changes recommended to provide for sectional meetings. This matter will be taken up at the next meeting of the league.

Mr Dudgeon introduced a resolution asking the executive board of the league to encourage sectional meetings in parts of the United States where they have never been held. He further moved that the middle-western section recommend to the executive board the payment of the expenses of the president in attending sectional meetings.

Wednesday afternoon was given up to the discussion of the ways in which com-

*See page 78.

missions may cooperate with the State library association in holding institutes, round table meetings and district meetings. CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, Secy.

Ohio Library Association

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Ohio library association was held at Columbus, Oct. 10-13, 1910.

An informal reception to the visiting members of the association was given at the Columbus public library by the library contingent of Columbus.

The business session was held Tuesday morning at the Public library.

In the afternoon Mrs A. P. Morris greeted the association in the name of the Women's federated clubs of the southeast district, and Mrs George Hopper, of the City federation of women's clubs, made a brief address of welcome.

Miss Boardman of Columbus, chairman of the committee on women's clubs, reported much and varied work done for and by the libraries in connection with women's clubs throughout the state.

Nina K. Preston, of the Michigan library association, briefly addressed the association.

The library organizer, Mary E. Downey, gave a summary of the two years' work of the department, a brief review of which is as follows: In addition to meeting special requests for aid, effort has been made to accomplish the following definite results: To visit the libraries of the state, both tax-supported and non-tax-supported; to encourage the keeping of proper records in accession registration and circulation; to install standard charging systems; to classify libraries needing such help; to assist in the work of cataloging; to stimulate an increased use of many libraries; to hold district meetings in various parts of the state; to develop library extension through the teachers' institutes and to encourage training in the summer and long course schools; made 386 visits to 229 towns; 67 towns visited for purposes of agitation; met board members of 105 libraries; made 71 addresses; traveling libra-

ries used to supplement libraries in 41 towns; 18 libraries have benefited by use of "Library helps"; 13 new libraries established; 7 tax-supported libraries discovered; 2 libraries tax-supported for years yet circulating under the subscription plan, opened free; 16 new buildings completed or under construction; 3 libraries have new rooms provided in town halls; 2 have better rented quarters; 4 buildings remodeled; standard charging systems installed in 17 libraries; 41 libraries classified and arranged; accessioning supervised in 9 libraries; 21 libraries aided in cataloging; 38 students from 28 libraries attended summer schools; 48 students in long course schools; 34 libraries have had changes in staff; a list of 63 libraries wishing to exchange duplicate magazines made and mailed to libraries of the state, together with an outline explaining method of exchange; interest in county libraries manifest in 9 counties; many towns taking advantage of the township provision, some combining the college; 12 district meetings held; the whole attendance numbering 334; 23 addresses given before teachers' institutes; the state has 117 tax-supported libraries.

Electra C. Doren presided over the session devoted to the small library—its work and experiences. Brief talks and papers with informal discussion were given on library organization, crowded shelves and the remedy, coöperation between school and library, county library extension, "personal equation in work with children," and the preservation of clippings and the best way of preparing them for circulation.

In the evening W. D. Campbell lectured on "The public library as an art center," and the latter part of the evening was devoted to a social session.

Wednesday morning Mayor G. S. Marshall of Columbus welcomed the association to Columbus and spoke on "The relation of the public library to the municipality from the point of view of the city official." Dr Rufus E. Miles, director of the Bureau of municipal research of Cincinnati, spoke on the rela-

tion of the public library to municipal research. General mismanagement of municipal affairs not in dispute, but the analysis as to cause and the remedy are at the base of every municipal problem. Essential not only to have a good individual in office but also that the machinery of that office be efficient. Municipal research must enlighten the public as to the necessity of efficient system. The public library can help in this work by maintenance of public lectures and discussions relating to public affairs; by organization of clubs for discussion of municipal questions; by collections of special material; by gathering together photographs and lantern slides to be used as loan collections; municipal exhibits and by the preservation of the records that different officials in Ohio towns take away with them when they leave office.

E. S. Martin, director of civic recreation in Columbus, gave a short talk on the work done among the children in the playgrounds in Columbus.

Wednesday afternoon A. D. Wilt of Dayton gave a short introductory address on "The public library as an adjunct to manufacturing interests," and then took charge of a symposium, in which was discussed the following topics: Can the public libraries materially increase the amount they are now expending for technical works and publications? Would collections of considerable size in the public libraries be of value enough to manufacturers to warrant them in contributing to furnish them? The special libraries as an adjunct to the public library. Are there enough expensive publications which the public libraries of a single city cannot afford to buy with the help of the manufacturers to warrant some plan of co-operative purchase and circulation by a number of cities?

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Ohio library association heartily approves of the plans suggested by the Educational committee of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, for the coöperation

of the manufacturers of Ohio through Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, and otherwise, to secure larger supplies of technical works relative to our industries, both by larger taxation and by private contribution of the manufacturers, and pledge our coöperation in as effective a way as possible, and agree hereby to appoint a committee in this movement.

Mr Galbreath reported the establishment of a reference department in the Ohio state library to assist members of the legislature in their work.

Robert H. Jeffrey, of the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company of Columbus, spoke on "The public library as an asset to the workingman." The Cleveland and Columbus public libraries were used as examples of the work being done for the workingman by the public library.

Wednesday evening Prof. A. S. Root of Oberlin lectured on "History of wood engraving," illustrated by stereopticon views. He was followed by Archer B. Hulbert, who made an address on "Historical fiction in the college curriculum."

Thursday morning Prof. Homer B. Williams, president of the Ohio teachers' association, addressed the association and the pupils of the normal school who had been invited to be present, on "Coöperation between the library and school." Mr Williams stated that such recognition could be effected by recognition of the common aim—the educated individual. The characteristics of such an individual was knowledge of the experience of the race, acquired through acquaintance with books, through a love of books, and through familiarity with the library itself. Coöperation could also be effected by library training in normal schools and teachers' institutes, by the training of the pupils in the schools, by developing a taste for good reading and by sending them to the library for help in their work.

A full and interesting report of the work done by the committee on relation of library and school, prepared by Miss Straus, was read by Miss Metz. This was followed by an informal discussion

of the work done for the schools in different libraries.

Miss Burnite then took the chair and opened the symposium of books for children, with a paper prepared by Miss Haines, on "Rhythm and rhythmic poetry."

Dr Hodges gave a delightful talk about "The books I read when I was a boy."

Miss Ely of Dayton told how she used Mrs Oliphant's histories with older children.

Miss Milliken of Cleveland read a paper giving her experience in the use of early English novels with girls in the children's room.

Miss Burnite read a short paper on "Importance of the use of adult books in the children's room."

A delightful garden party was given on the Ohio state university campus by the Columbus library club to the Ohio library association on Thursday afternoon. At the close of the afternoon a business meeting was held on the campus. B. E. Stevenson, of the committee on legislation, reported the passage of a bill in the legislature by which important amendments were made to existing laws. Where a board of education appoints the board of trustees of a library, the trustees' levy is to be mandatory, and the trustees by a two-thirds vote are to be permitted to retain in the treasury any surplus, to be set aside as a building and repair fund.

The following officers were elected:

President, Linda M. Clatworthy of Dayton; vice-president, Caroline Burnite of Cleveland; second vice-president, S. J. Brandenburg of Oxford; third vice-president, Nana Newton of Portsmouth; secretary, Mary E. Downey of Columbus; treasurer, Mirpah Blair of Columbus; chairman of the college section, R. B. Miller of Ohio Wesleyan university; secretary of college section, Alice Wing of Ohio state university library.

The conference closed with a lecture by Prof. S. H. Clark of the University of Chicago, Thursday evening.*

*See Public Libraries, 15:419.

Atlantic City Meeting

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association will be held at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N. J., on March 10-11, 1911. There will be the usual three sessions—the first, under the direction of the New Jersey library association on Friday, March 10, 8:30 p. m.; the second under the direction of the Pennsylvania library club on Saturday, March 11, 10:30 a. m., and the third on Saturday, 8:30 p. m., will be a general session.

Railroad rates

New York or Newark to Atlantic City and return.....	\$5.00
(Excursion tickets good to return within six months from date of sale.)	
Philadelphia to Atlantic City and return	2.00
Philadelphia to Atlantic City and return, electric train.....	1.75
Philadelphia to Atlantic City and return, via Delaware River bridge....	2.50
(Excursion tickets good to return within 15 days from date of sale.)	

For railroad tickets and schedules, apply to any ticket agent of the Pennsylvania or Reading railroads or the Central railroad of New Jersey.

Hotel arrangements

The headquarters will be at the Hotel Chelsea at the ocean end of South Morris avenue, Chelsea, Atlantic City. The following rates have been offered by this hotel:

One person in a room (without bath),	\$3.50 a day.
Two persons in a room (without bath),	each \$3.00 a day.
One person in a room (with bath),	\$4.50 a day.
Two persons in a room (with bath),	each \$4.00 a day.

Members and their friends who wish rooms reserved are requested to write direct to the hotel. Persons desiring to obtain special rates for a week or longer are requested to correspond with the proprietor.

Members of other library clubs and friends in adjacent states are cordially

invited to be present and to take part in the meetings.

Outline of proposed program

First session will be held at Hotel Chelsea, March 10, 8:30 p. m.

The program for the New Jersey library association session will be announced later. As in former years, there will be two special sessions held under the direction of the New Jersey library association on Thursday evening, March 9, and on Friday morning, March 10, which will be of particular interest to New Jersey librarians. Full particulars can be obtained from the secretary, Edna B. Pratt, State library, Trenton, N. J.

Second session at Hotel Chelsea, March 11, 10:30 a. m. Chairman, T. Wilson Hedley.

"Municipal periodical literature," Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Esq.

"A library outpost," Nellie E. Leaming, librarian-in-charge of the Richmond branch of Free library of Philadelphia.

"The library and the foreign speaking peoples," Peter Roberts, Ph.D., secretary, the International committee of Y. M. C. A., New York City.

Third session, Hotel Chelsea, March 11, 8:30 p. m. Program to be announced later.

Library Meetings

Chicago—Following the custom of years, the January meeting of the Chicago library club was the annual reception, which for several years has been given in honor of the library workers, gathered in the city the first week in the new year, for the meetings connected with the A. L. A. and affiliated associations. Since "library week" has become an established event, these receptions are especially delightful, and this opportunity for social meeting is thoroughly appreciated.

On Wednesday evening, January 4, the club again enjoyed the hospitality of the Art Institute board, so cordially extended last year, who placed at its disposal the Field Memorial, Stickney, and Munger galleries, with their rich collections of paintings.

The president, Mr Carlton, assisted by President J. I. Wyer of the A. L. A.; Mrs Elmendorf, vice-president of A. L. A.; Director and Mrs W. M. R. French of the Art institute; Miss Ahern, Mr Legler and others, received the guests, who at will enjoyed conversation, pictures, music or dancing, and later the tour of the galleries conducted by Mr French.

Mesdames Carlton, Hanson, Legler and Roden presided at the refreshment table in the Stickney room.

About 250 guests and members braved the cold and storm of the evening to be present. JESSIE M. WOODFORD, Sec'y.

Montana—The fifth annual meeting of the Montana state library association was called to order by President Elizabeth Thomson of Anaconda on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 27, in Billings.

The address of the afternoon was given by James M. Hamilton of Bozeman, his subject being Montana bibliography. This interesting and instructive paper brought forth many questions, and discussions were led by Judge Pemberton, President Dunniway, H. H. Swain, R. G. Young, Prof. Davee and other visitors.

Each library represented gave an informal account of the work done with the public schools, and the librarians and teachers entered freely into discussions relative to public libraries and public schools.

A 6 o'clock dinner was tendered the members of the association by the trustees of the local library. Other guests included the wives of the library trustees, President Dunniway of Missoula, President Hamilton of Bozeman, and S. D. Largent of Great Falls and Mr. Lewis Terwilliger of Livingston as visiting library trustees. At the close of the dinner I. D. O'Donnell, president of the Billings library board, gave the address of welcome, and Miss Thomson, president of the Library association, gave the response. Several informal talks followed, after which Miss McCord of Bozeman gave an interesting talk, taking for her subject "Library grind."

The sessions on Wednesday were held

in the library building. The following officers were elected: President, Mabel Collins, Billings; vice-president, Gertrude Buckhous, Missoula; secretary-treasurer, Grace M. Stoddard, Missoula.

The following resolution was presented by Judge Pemberton, Helena:

Resolved, That the Montana state library association heartily approves the request of the board of trustees of the State historical and miscellaneous library, contained in the recent biennial report of said board to the governor of the state, for legislative authority to employ an historian by said library.

On motion, duly seconded, this resolution was approved.

Then followed informal talks on everyday library problems, after which a visit was made to the Billings book bindery, where the process of bookbinding was explained.

At the afternoon session Miss Sultzer of Butte read a paper written by Miss Stoddard of Missoula on "County libraries." This most excellent paper brought forth the discussion desired, which resulted in a beneficial exchange of ideas.

MABEL COLLINS, Sec'y.

North Carolina—The sixth annual meeting of the North Carolina library association was held at Winston-Salem, December 7-8, in the Winston high school auditorium.

The association was extended a warm welcome by Col. Garland E. Webb of the library board. The reports of the officers were followed by papers by Miss Leatherman, secretary of the North Carolina commission, and Miss Shaw of Davidson college. Miss Leatherman traced the progress of the library movement in North Carolina from 1900 to date, showing the remarkable growth of the past 10 years. Miss Shaw told of the new Carnegie building at Davidson college, and something of the work being done there. After the session, a visit was made to the Winston library.

The second session was held Wednesday evening in the Memorial hall, Salem academy and college. Bishop Rondthaler in a few kindly words welcomed the vis-

itors, and Prof. Collier Cobb of the University of North Carolina responded.

In the president's annual address, Dr Louis R. Wilson, librarian of the University of North Carolina, told of the ways in which the libraries of the state could reach more people and give more efficient service. He laid special emphasis on work with children and schools, establishment of traveling libraries, cooperation with teachers' associations, and library extension.

Dr Edwin Mims of the University of North Carolina gave an inspiring address. He spoke of the necessity for social reforms; of the historic reason for the slow growth of public spirit in the South; of the place and importance of the library in the community. The librarian should be an inspired priest or priestess in the temple of books.

A reception to the librarians in the library of the college followed, and a very enjoyable hour was spent.

At the third session, held Thursday morning, Hon. J. C. Buxton spoke with enthusiasm of the work that libraries are doing, and of the companionship of books.

J. P. Breedlove, Trinity college, and Miss Petty, State normal school, led the discussion on "Aids in book selection," with papers on the comparative merits of book-reviewing periodicals. Miss Leatherman and Mr Cruikshank of Raleigh discussed "Magazines, their purchase and use," and gave very practical suggestions. They were followed by Prof. Collier Cobb, who spoke on "Popularizing the library." He laid stress on the importance of work with children. Miss Dixon, Goldsboro, and Miss Jones, Raleigh, then told "How the commission can aid libraries," with instances of its helpfulness in the past. The state offices and their publications was discussed briefly by Dr Wilson, and the morning session was ended.

The association was the guest of the Winston United Daughters of the Confederacy at a delightful luncheon.

The afternoon session was opened with a round-table discussion of cata-

logging, with papers by Miss Broughton, Raleigh and Miss Palmer, Charlotte. Mrs Mary Prather, Winston, spoke on "Work with children and schools," and papers on the same subject by Miss Caldwell, Greensboro, and Mrs E. C. Hovey, Spartanburg, S. C., were read.

The event of the afternoon was the paper by Mrs G. F. Harper on "Children's books from the standpoint of ethics." She made a plea for fewer and better books for children, and for wholesome, sane stories, free from harrowing incidents. She made mention of excellent stories possessing ethical value which have charmed children of all times.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. P. Breedlove, Trinity college, Durham; first vice-president, Mrs S. P. Cooper; second vice-president, E. P. Wharton, Greensboro; treasurer, Bertha Rosenthal, Raleigh; secretary, Mary B. Palmer, Charlotte. MARY B. PALMER, Sec'y.

Pennsylvania—The second meeting of the season was held on the evening of Jan. 9, 1911, at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia.

Upon motion, after the business and extension of an invitation to members and friends to attend the fifteenth annual meeting at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N. J., Mr Hedley presented the speaker of the evening, ex-Governor Pennypacker, who gave an interesting talk on "Early Pennsylvania printers and their books," having a number of the early editions on exhibition, one of which was the Aiken Bible, published by Robert Aiken, being the first Bible printed in America and printed in Philadelphia; also several books by Francis Daniel Pastorius, among others the "Commonplace book." The earliest printers in Philadelphia were William Bradford and his son, Andrew, though of course we all know that Benjamin Franklin was the real printer of Philadelphia. The Dunkards in Ephrata printed in 1745 the "Ephrata martyr book," a copy of which was examined with interest. At the close of the address a cordial vote of thanks was ex-

tended to Governor Pennypacker by the club, after which the meeting adjourned, followed by a reception in the art galleries. JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Sec'y.

Tennessee—The department of libraries of the Southern educational association met in the Unitarian church in Chattanooga on December 28, Miss Johnson of Carnegie library, Nashville, presiding, and Dr David R. Lee of the University of Chattanooga acting as secretary.

The first paper read was by Dr Lee on "The relation of the university library to the city library." This paper was a very able presentation of the need and advantages of the coöperation of libraries, especially with the view of utilizing their resources in common helpfulness and also in preventing a useless duplication of volumes. The paper elicited general and interesting discussion.

Miss Holtzclaw of the Chattanooga high school read a paper on "Relation of the public library to the high school students," which was very comprehensive and suggestive of the best methods of making the library most serviceable to the students.

Miss Johnson of Nashville spoke, advocating a system of libraries making the library in the county seat the center of distribution of books throughout the county, both to the schools and individual readers.

Mrs Eugene B. Heard of Middleton, Ga., supervisor of traveling libraries of the Seaboard Air Line, gave a most interesting talk describing her work and its good and encouraging results.

In addition to discussions of the department there was much interest manifested in the Educational association by school boards and superintendents in the matter of coöperation of the public library and public schools.

An exhibit was made by the Nashville public library of books graded from the first to the eighth grade inclusive, copies of which are placed in the public schools of Nashville by the library for supplemental reading. There was also a distribution of model library lists that

had been published by the Nashville library for the benefit of teachers and parents visiting the annual state fair.

The following named officers of the Department of libraries were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Dr. Louis R. Wilson, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Vice-President—Wm. F. Yust, Louisville, Ky.

Secretary—Mary R. Skeffington, Nashville, Tenn.

A brilliant social reception was given by Chattanooga citizens at Hotel Patten to the members of the S. E. A. and its departments.

MARY HANNAH JOHNSON, Sec.

Coming meeting

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association will be held March 10, 1911, at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N. J. A good program is promised and it is hoped a large number of librarians and friends will be present.

Monographs on Timely Topics

It was stated during the recent meetings in Chicago that Miss Hazeltine had suggested that the A. L. A. Booklist be asked to include monographs on timely topics in its monthly issues.

In answer to an inquiry from the editor, as to her meaning when she spoke of "timely monographs," Miss Hazeltine replies as follows: "By monographs I meant the inclusion as a regular book notice of the occasional timely publications that appear in the serial publications of normal schools, colleges, universities and otherwise. A number of these are already included from time to time in the Booklist, as, for instance, important numbers of the *Annals of the American academy*, and occasional popular bulletins of universities, etc. If somebody, like the League of library commissions, could coöperate with the editor, notifying her of such monographs as they were discovered, a few more could be included each year; it is just a matter of happening upon them many

times. Such monographs included as titles would not make more than three or four pages additional in the booklist each year, and they would, of course, appear in their regular alphabetic place. The Booklist is one of the most useful tools the library world has for every day use in its book selection. This suggestion is in no wise a criticism, only a hope for coöperative work in a field that the editor could not possibly do alone, because of the many other demands on her time."

Very cordially yours,

M. E. HAZELTINE.

Eugene Field Manuscripts

A number of interesting Eugene Field items are in the collection of Edmund Clarence Stedman, which was recently sold. Among them is an unpublished manuscript written on 16 pages of parchment and entitled "A lttle folio of proper olde Englyshe ballads: ffor Edmonde Clairauce Steadmann. By Eugen-A-Feld. These ben done att Chicagoe in the yere 1887."

The leaves are decorated with many drawings, some in color, by the author, and the lot includes his own portrait, sent by him to Stedman in appreciation of the latter's obtaining him a publisher for his first book, "Culture's Garland." On the next to the last page is this autograph colophon: "Godee help & Saue us Men Alle. Amen saye I, ye Auguste ye ten, Anno Domini 1887. Eugene-a-ffelde." On the reverse of the title page is written:

Searche mee & you shall find writ herein:
A Ballad of old Othes.
Ye mournfull historie of Madge ye hoyden,
and
Ye plaisant and ffull merrie ballad of
Ye Diuell & ye miller hys wiffe; being
Altogether 3 ballads to ye glorv of ye
authure & his reader.

Other interesting items are: Original poem by Field, "Ye Crewell Sassinger-Mill," written on vellum, with illuminated initials; Field's "Lullaby," signed autograph poems on white glass, and a poetical letter of 20 lines introducing Harriet Monroe to Stedman, and dated Chicago,

May 7, 1888. There are also long and interesting autograph letters. In one of these, Jan. 1, 1889, he says to Stedman: "When I get to New York I shall show you four Poe letters which I have unearthed; also a letter about Poe from John R. Thompson, written the month following Poe's death, also the original drawing by Poe of the title page of the prospective *Stylus*." In another letter, Aug. 6, 1889, he says: "I am neither a poet nor an author. I am simply a newspaper man, seeking to do something toward improving newspaper literature. I am a thistle, standing in a bleak but fertile prairie; if the high winds scatter my seed hither and thither I shall be content, for then other thistles will issue therefrom and make the prairie beautiful after a fashion. But presently advancing culture will root up the thistles, and then more beautiful flowers will bloom in our stead; that conviction pleases me most, although I do not repine that I am a thistle."—*N. Y. Times*.

Rare Books

A two-foot book shelf containing the 10 rarest books in the world would cost about \$250,000, according to an estimate prepared by the Bibliophiles' association of New York. It would contain the following volumes, which, if on the market today, would cost the prices set down:

Gutenberg Bible, the first printed book, \$50,000; Psalter of 1457, first book printed with a date, \$50,000; "Receyuel of the History of Troy," printed by William Caxton, the first book in the English language, \$40,000; first edition of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," 1478, \$20,000; first edition of Sir Thomas Malory's "Morte d'Arthur," \$20,000; "Book of the General Laws of Massachusetts," 1648, first book of laws printed in America, \$20,000; Bay psalm book, 1640, first book printed in America, \$10,000; first edition of Shakespeare's "Venus and Adonis," \$10,000; Psalter of 1459, \$10,000.

The best copy of the last-named work is now owned by J. P. Morgan.—*N. Y. Times*.

With the poor paper that today is "making books mere shades of passing value," there is a blank future!

Interesting Things in Print

The Toledo public library has issued a list of books on gardening and a list of tales of the West and Northwest.

The Public library of Trenton, N. J., has issued a pamphlet on municipal government. An important point is the list of cities that have adopted the commission form of government.

Among the list of periodicals issued by the Ohio state library is one on Public utility, Initiative and referendum, Workman's compensation or insurance against loss of wages arising out of industrial accidents, Election of United States senators, and Ohio canals.

Prof. A. S. Steenberg, *Statens Bog-samlingskomité*, 21 Stormgade, Copenhagen, Denmark, wishes to inform those interested that he will be glad to assist those public libraries which are making a collection of Danish books, in book selections, etc., whenever his help may be asked for.

The Milwaukee Normal School Bulletin for January contains the course on the use of reference books. The pamphlet is interleaved with blank pages. Something of the kind used in every normal school would prepare the teachers, not only to use the library to better advantage for themselves, but would also enable them to give proper instruction to their students whom they send to the public libraries for study.

Bennata Otten, Lubeck, has issued a list "Die deutschen Volksbibliotheken und Lesehallen." The list only includes the libraries in cities of more than 10,000 inhabitants. Considerable statistical information concerning the various libraries is given bearing on the cities, which are alphabetically arranged. The pamphlet is published by H. Harrassowitz, Leipzig. An introduction by Dr G. Fritz of Charlottenburg presents a high ideal of the library in the development of popular education. Dr Fritz made the best presentation of the advantages of "popular libraries" in the scheme of education that

was given in the library congress at Brussels last summer.

"Penelope's progress," in reinforced binding, from the firm of H. R. Hunting Company, Springfield, clad in her Stuart plaid cover, is certainly attractive bait for the use of public libraries. This is an exceedingly attractive way to add utility to beauty, as the original cover does not take away the individuality or the attractiveness of the book, one or both of which are sometimes lost in adding durability to the volume.

The Hunting Company has compiled a list of reinforced books that are being put up by the various publishers.

A beautiful specimen of typography is a poem, "Vermont," by Wendell Phillips Stafford, Litt. D., read at the 110th commencement of Middlebury college, has been issued through the Elm Tree Press, Woodstock, Vt. To one whose nativity began in the state "where green hills enthrone," there surely must come a thrill of pride at the beautiful sentiments expressed in "Vermont," and all "Green Mountain Boys" will give their assent to the words:

"And they are still thy children, though their feet

Follow hard trails in the tumultuous town,
Or to the mighty waters have gone down;
And though they long have heard the surges beat

On alien shores, and alien tongues repeat
Their names, and of new men have earned renown,

They are thy children still, and every crown
They win is thine, and makes thy dream more sweet."

Library Spirit

At night to the library building,
When the city is wrapped in sleep,
Comes a lonely library spirit,
A tryst with the books to keep.
Between tall, shadowy cases
It softly, softly treads;
While ghosts of vanished races
From old books nod their heads.

Softly between the cases
The spirit, weeping, steals.
And weirdly, weirdly wails it
Because of the sorrow it feels—
Sorrow because it must flit
When dawn breaks cold and gray;
For you see there's no library spirit at all
In the building during the day.

Suggested Lists of Children's Books

One of the good pieces of work that have just been issued is a list of books for children compiled by Helen T. Kennedy, under the authority of Wisconsin library commission. The preparation of this list must have involved an enormous amount of work. Miss Kennedy was in constant consultation with others who have compiled similar lists in the past, and the result may be called a consensus of the opinion of the noted experts on children's books throughout the country. The list will be particularly valuable for small libraries that are far from library centers, with the express purpose, as set forth in the preface, "for use as a first buying list, to be supplemented later by other and more extensive lists."

In the 500 books included several things seem to have been kept in mind, to include books of real merit and value, books that may serve as stepping stones, to include the old as well as the new, and to include popular books and favorite classics of the editions best suited for library purposes.

The question of edition deserves attention. Usually in the three editions given the first is the least expensive that is at the time thoroughly good in paper, print and illustration. The second is superior in mechanical make-up and more comprehensive in scope, and the third is usually a beautifully illustrated book.

The arrangement of the list is admirable. The first 50 pages are devoted to suggested lists; then follows 12 or 15 pages of supplementary lists to which is added a dozen pages of popular books for boys and girls, classified by subjects.

Specially noteworthy is the annotation in the list of "books in series." The separation of these books from the general list is commendable. The truth of the compiler's statement, "high standard in sets is seldom maintained and the books are uneven in merit and interest," is well known to the informed librarian. The best titles in the series are indicated. The simple numbers of the decimal classification are attached to the class books,

publishers and price give valuable information, and the authors and title index also add further value to the work. Much useful information concerning these books is given in the annotations and the titles, many of which have been compiled and taken from lists already approved, to which credit is given in every case.

As was said before, Miss Kennedy has compiled a valuable piece of work and one for which there is place at this time, in view of the swiftness with which these lists go out of date, and for which the librarians of the small libraries will be increasingly grateful as they come to use the lists more and more.

Bogsamlingsbladet, the Danish library journal, contains in its November issue an account of the International library conference, by Prof. A. S. Steenberg, who, in company with H. O. Lange, librarian of the Royal library (Copenhagen), and R. Meyer, librarian of the Royal agricultural college (Copenhagen), took part in the Brussels meeting. He dwells with some emphasis upon the defense of the American system of providing reading for children and mentions as a particularly happy feature of the conference the festivities accorded by the various authorities; and last, but not least, the opportunity of seeing and judging at close range the operations and the accumulated work of the International institute of bibliography. B.

Study Club Lists

The health department of the General Federation of women's clubs has announced the following list for study and campaigns during the coming year. The librarians might coöperate by calling attention to the material in the libraries that would be of interest to the women's clubs in the various localities:

February—Common drinking cup.
March—Typhoid fly.
April—Dental hygiene.
May—Social hygiene.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

Three graduates of the school have recently received appointments in the New York public library as follows: Cara Hutchins, '09, Chatham Square branch; Lieze Holmes, 1909, Hudson Park branch; Louie Smith, 1910, Seward Park branch.

Ethel Daniel, 1909, has been engaged as a substitute in the Carnegie library of Atlanta to fill the place of Miss Bradley, 1906, who has obtained a brief leave of absence.

Margaret Bryan, 1909, has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Troy, Ala.

Miss Murrill, 1910, has been appointed indexer in the office of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, Atlanta, to fill the place recently held by Miss Louie Smith, who has received an appointment in New York city.

Pauline Benson, 1908, has been appointed librarian of the library in Langley, S. C.

JULIA T. RANKIN, Director.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

Training school for children's librarians

The Christmas vacation closed January 4. The following changes have been made in the student body:

Kate Keith, Pittsburgh, Pa., Smith college, A. B., 1910, has been appointed children's librarian of the children's rooms at the central library.

Phyllis Evers Murray, Manchester, C., Glendale college, 1907, entered the junior class at the beginning of the winter term.

Ruth Tillotson Miller, Scottsville, N. Y., University of Chicago, Ph. B., 1908, and Louise Singley, Baltimore, Md., Wells college, 1903-04, who have been on the library staff, have resigned their positions and reentered the junior class.

Seumas MacManus gave a series of lectures and story hours under the direction of the Training school, January 19, 20 and 21.

Drexel Institute

After the holidays, school exercises were resumed on January 4. The class owed to the invitation of the Pennsylvania library club the opportunity to enjoy Governor Pennypacker's talk on "Early printers of Pennsylvania" at the club meeting on January 9. They had previously visited the University of Pennsylvania library and the Mercantile library of Philadelphia, and the club meeting allowed them to increase their acquaintance with the Free library system.

The first term's work closed on January 31 after the semester examinations. Cataloging, reference work and bibliography, book selection and history of libraries continue throughout the year, but classification, most of the short courses dealing with the physical treatment of the book, and typewriting were given in the first term.

Clara W. Hunt opened the second term with a series of five lectures on children's reading, followed by reading and practice.

The binding course, given by Miss Hopkins, is to include also a lecture by A. L. Bailey and one by C. H. O'Connor.

The students will spend the fortnight from March 27 to April 7 in practice work in outside libraries, which have generously granted that privilege to the school.

Graduates

The Alice B. Kroeger memorial lectureship fund is growing steadily, and in order to complete the amount desired the alumnae arranged for a delightful evening on January 14, when Seumas MacManus gave his inimitable "Stories of Irish fairy and folk-lore."

Margaret Forgeus, '06, has resigned her position as head cataloger at Iowa state college to accept a position as cataloger in the Cornell university library.

Mellie Morris Smith, '09, has been promoted to the position of head cataloger at the Iowa state library.

Margaret Meagher, '09, has been ap-

pointed an assistant in the library of the Metropolitan art museum, New York.

Katherine Rogers, '10, has been appointed assistant in the Iowa state library.

J. R. DONNELLY.

New York state library

H. C. Wellman, librarian of the Springfield free library, gave two lectures on "Library advertising," January 12-13. Mr Wellman's talks included concrete suggestions for successful advertising as tested at his own library and discussions of the general principles which must be observed to make the advertising worth while in any library.

Preliminary plans for the coming summer session are nearly completed. The session will begin June 1 and end July 13. There will be one general course of six weeks, including subjects of general interest to the smaller libraries. In addition to the work of the regular faculty there will be lectures by library workers of the state and elsewhere. A special circular of the course is nearly ready for distribution. A number of applications for admission have already been received.

The discussion of "Work with schools" has begun in the senior seminar. The work of specific libraries will be examined and reported on and tentative outlines of courses of instruction for teachers and high school students will be presented and discussed. The final exercise will be a talk by Mary E. Hall, of the Brooklyn girls' high school, on her experiences as a school librarian.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

The lecture course of the winter term began Jan. 3, with a lecture by Miss Burnite of Cleveland on "The furniture and fittings of the children's room," a repetition of the valuable talk given to the class of 1910.

On Jan. 10, W. D. Johnston of Columbia university spoke to the students on "The trained librarian in the educational institution," and on the 17th Miss Hewins, on the eve of her depart-

ure for Europe, gave a delightful talk, contrasting the lives of American children of a generation ago with children's lives to-day, and showing how from the changed conditions there had developed a need for children's libraries and librarians.

Several of the students attended a joint meeting of the New York and Long Island library clubs held in New York the evening of Jan. 17, the subject of the evening being "Our foreign population."

The usual parties have been made up for visiting Pratt institute and seeing the evening classes at work, always an inspiring experience.

Assignments for story telling at various places, such as the United Neighborhood house, Maxwell house, the Bliss kindergarten (where a club of girls of 12 to 14 years forms the audience), and probably the Settlement of the Hebrew educational society are being made. Eight students have volunteered for this, giving every other Thursday and alternating in couples in story telling and in looking after the conditions of the room and of the audience.

Graduates

Jane Gardner has been appointed head of the art reference department of the New Bedford public library.

Nathalie Maurice has been chosen as librarian of the Madison Square church house, New York.

Leora Cross has recently been appointed librarian of the West high school library, Cleveland.

Mary Dawson has recently joined the library staff of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York.

Margaret Fullerton has been engaged for temporary work by the Ohio state library, Columbus.

Ruth Townsend has been appointed organizer and librarian of the new library at Harrison, N. J.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

Summer schools

A summer course in library training will be given by the University of Illinois library school at Urbana during the regular summer session of the university, beginning Monday, June 19, and continuing for six weeks. The faculty of the school is planning to meet the needs of librarians and library assistants in the smaller libraries of Illinois, though librarians and assistants from other states will be accepted as students. The school will be open only to those actually engaged in library work or under appointment to serve in a library. In giving the course the faculty will cooperate with the members of the Illinois state library extension commission and other library interests of the state.

News from the Field

East

Ruth E. Warren, B. L. S., New York, '10, and Louis Charles Shaul of Albany, N. Y., were married at Townsend, Mass., Wednesday, January 11.

Caroline M. Hewins, of the Hartford public library, sails for Trieste on January 18, and expects to spend three months in Italy and England, returning early in May.

Frances Hobart, formerly secretary of the Vermont state library commission, will on March 1 take charge of the library department of the H. R. Hunting Company, Springfield, Mass., giving special attention to children's books and the needs of small libraries.

Mabel E. Emerson, for more than 26 years connected with the Public library of Providence, R. I., resigned her position on Dec. 23. Miss Emerson was reference librarian from the time that department was first established in 1891. Under her charge the reference department expanded its field and became widely known throughout the country. Miss Emerson left the library to become the wife of Roaldo F. Colwell, teacher in the Technical high school of Providence, R. I.

Clara A. Hawes, New York, '94, has been appointed librarian of the Y. M. C. A. training school at Springfield, Mass.

The annual report of the Massachusetts state library is a record of increased growth; 7387 v., 7650 pamphlets and 19 maps were added during the year. Four legislative reference rooms covering 1092 square feet of space have been used for reference work during the past year. In the rooms are collections of statutes and books on special subjects supplemented by lists of books, pamphlets and magazine articles. The collection is a changing one and there is ample space for its accommodation.

Central Atlantic

It is reported that the New York public library reached a circulation of 7,500,000 books distributed to 1,500,000 borrowers during 1910.

Mabel E. Leonard, B. L. S., New York, '06, and Lieutenant Adelno Gibson, Coast Artillery corps, U. S. army, were married at Albany, N. Y., Wednesday, December 28.

Gertrude M. Gilbert, New York, '09-10, has resigned her position as cataloger in the library of the U. S. education department at Washington to accept a similar position in the U. S. department of agriculture library.

Announcement has been made that the Columbia university has accepted an offer to defray the expenses of publishing a pamphlet to be prepared by Columbia professors for distribution to the public libraries throughout the country, giving a list of the best books on subjects taught in college. The purpose is to give those who have never been to college and who would like to undertake a reading course on college subjects a list of books used in the courses of college. The donor of the gift is Chester Dewitt Pugsley of Peekskill, N. Y., Harvard, '09.

Central

Maud Van Buren, for some time librarian of the Public library of Mankato,

Minn., has resigned to take up work with Wisconsin library commission.

E. J. Lien, for some time connected with the State library of Minnesota, has been appointed state librarian.

Ada Still has been elected librarian of the Public library at Moorhead, Minn., to succeed Grace Folund, who has resigned on account of ill health.

Anna M. Tarr, New York, 1910, has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Clinton Iowa, to succeed Grace Mullany, who recently died.

Grace Phillips, Illinois, '04, for six years connected with the library of the University of Missouri, has been elected librarian of the State normal school of Warrensburg, Mo.

Mary Dunham, New York, '02-4, has resigned her position as reference librarian at the University of Indiana to become librarian of the Iowa state teachers' college, Cedar Falls.

Harriett Imhoff, formerly of Pittsburgh, for the past year with the Wisconsin legislative reference library, has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Fargo, N. D. She began work January 1.

The Chicago public library records the use of 2,701,223 books during the year. Of this 1,956,812 represents books for home use. There has been a gain of 25 per cent in the registration of borrowers during the year.

F. L. D. Goodrich, B. L. S., New York state library, '06, in charge of accessions at the University of Michigan library, has been made editor of the semi-annual bulletin, *Michigan Libraries*, which began publication in December.

A report of the Public library of Antigo, Wis., shows a register of more than 400 new borrowers the last six months and an addition of 714 new books. German and Polish books are rented from the library commission at Madison and have had a good circulation.

Lucile Clinton, Illinois, '03, has recently been appointed librarian of one of the branch libraries in Minneapolis, Minn. Miss Clinton, previous to this appointment, had been for five years librarian of the Public library at Charleston, Ill.

W. B. A. Taylor, formerly of the St Louis public library and for several years librarian of the Young Men's Mercantile library, Cincinnati, has resigned his position, resignation to take effect February 1. Mr Taylor goes to the New York public library.

The Milwaukee public library has adopted a schedule of automatic increase in the salaries of library workers. The schedule adopted is as follows:

Class I.

A Grade, Assistant librarian—First year, \$1800; second, \$1860; third, \$1920; fourth, \$1980; fifth, \$2040.

B Grade, heads of departments—First year, \$1440; second, \$1500; third, \$1560; fourth, \$1620; fifth, \$1680.

Class II.

A Grade, Senior assistants—First year, \$1200; second, \$1260; third, \$1320; fourth, \$1380.

B Grade—First year, \$960; second, \$1020; third, \$1080; fourth, \$1140.

Class III.

A Grade, Junior assistants—First year, \$720; second, \$780; third, \$840; fourth, \$900.

B Grade—First year, \$480; second, \$540; third, \$600; fourth, \$660.

Class IV.

Students—First year, \$300; second, \$360; third, \$420; fourth, \$480; fifth, \$540; sixth, \$600.

Marietta Smith, for 14 years chief clerk of the library, has resigned her position to go into other work. Helen Buchanan will succeed Miss Smith.

Mary M. Douglas, supervisor of the work of children in the St Louis public library, will shortly enter another field of activity. The papers of St Louis announce her engagement to Charles O. Carpenter jr, son of a prominent member of the St Louis library board. Miss Douglas was at one time connected with the Public library of Cedar Rapids, Ia.,

and from there went to Pratt institute library school, later was in Pittsburgh, and has been in St Louis for something over a year. She attended the A. L. A. at Mackinac last summer, and gave one of the best papers that was read at the joint meeting of the Illinois and Iowa library associations last October.

A branch of Indianapolis library was opened in West Indianapolis on January 12. Addresses were made by Frank Morrison, president of the board and Miss Browning, librarian of Indianapolis public library.

The hosts of the evening were the Boys' library club, an organization formed some time ago by volunteer workers to guide the reading of the members of the Boys' club.

After the dedicatory services, refreshments were served by the Mothers' club of West Indianapolis and a meeting to form a civic improvement club among the citizens of West Indianapolis was held.

South

Lorain Norris, for five years connected with the catalog department of the main library of Louisville, Ky., has been elected librarian of the new Shelby Park branch, which will be opened about March 1.

For the purpose of bringing to the attention of the public in the largest possible degree, the opportunity afforded by the intelligent use of the Public library, a number of ministers, of Charlotte, N. C., addressed their sermons to the general subject of libraries and its relations to mental and spiritual life, throughout the day, December 13. In some of the churches where other topics had been scheduled, ten minutes were allowed to a speaker in which to present announcements or give information with regard to the work of the library.

George B. Utley, for several years in charge of the Public library at Jacksonville, Fla., has been appointed secretary of the American library association by

the executive board to succeed Chalmers Hadley, resigned.

Mr Utley was born in Hartford, Conn. and is 34 years old. He was graduated from Brown university in 1899. He was connected with Watkinson athenæum, Hartford, Conn., as assistant librarian and later was in charge of the Maryland diocesan library at Baltimore in 1901-05. For the past six years he has been librarian of the Jacksonville public library and director of the Florida historical society, 1908-10, of which he was the organizer. He also organized the Florida library association, of which he was president, 1906-08.

He has attended the following A. L. A. conferences: Niagara, 1903; St Louis, 1904; Narragansett Pier, 1906; Asheville, 1907; Minnetonka, 1908; Bretton Woods, 1909. He also was present at Brussels (International, 1910); Exeter, England, and several state and sectional conferences.

He was married in 1901 and has no children.

The eighth annual report of the Carnegie library of Charlotte, N. C., for the year 1910 opens with a measure of appreciation of a former librarian, Mrs Annie Smith Ross.

Special emphasis is laid on the lack of financial support and a plea made for more adequate funds. With 5610 books on the shelves, 33,584 were issued for home use to a membership of 6334. The circulation was less than that of 1909, and the rule of allowing two books on one card was abolished on account of the lack of books. The registration for 1910 was 618. About 12,300 persons used the reading and reference room during the year. Reading lists on various topics were prepared for the study clubs and published in the newspapers. Addition to the book fund was made through tag day, which netted \$278, and a book social at Thanksgiving realized \$102, and 185 books were received.

Distinctive work was done in pub-

licity. This has been possible through the courtesy and coöperation of the newspapers in Charlotte. During the year 60 newspaper articles were published. Picture postal cards regarding the library, giving hours, etc., were placed in hotels and railway stations. The results have been good and it is hoped to extend it to large stores, factories and mills.

The library Sunday, through the coöperation of the ministers, on Dec. 18, was a success. Library sermons were preached in five pulpits and announcements regarding the purpose of the library were made in the rest of the churches.

West

Mrs Nellie K. Gravett of Salida, Colo., has been appointed state librarian of Colorado.

Hesther Bonham, for some time assistant librarian of the Public library of Provo, Utah, has been appointed librarian to succeed Mrs May Partridge, resigned, to be married.

Mrs Henry I. Cook has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Salida, Colo., to succeed Mrs Nellie K. Gravett. The latter resigned to take charge of the State library of Colorado.

The annual report of the Public library of Omaha shows a circulation in the main library of 215,913; circulation at the factories, 3086. A collection of 30,132 v. was deposited in the schools, of which no record of circulation is kept. The circulation of fiction represented 51 per cent; total number of pictures circulated in the schools, 9248. The visitors to the reading rooms were 72,171; visitors to the museums, 45,370, the largest attendance a day reaching 1000.

Only 22 books were lost through the circulation in the main library, and of the total circulation in the school only 48. The number of borrowers is 15,049, the life of a card being three years. The circulation in the school is without membership card. The circu-

lation of books to foreign speaking population depends upon the number of available volumes in the collection.

The total number of books in the library is 89,940. The number added during the year was 7267, of which 4522 were duplicates. Almost all of the titles for the children's department are duplicates.

The number of volumes purchased in foreign tongues was 1016. The work of reclassifying the library on the decimal system is progressing as rapidly as can be expected, since the library has no additional help for the work. Stereopticon slides are used by any classes which may wish them at the library or they may be loaned outside. The lecture room has been in frequent use. The special gifts which have been received represent art objects for the museum and art books for the reference collection. Contributions have been received from the Medical society and the D. A. R. for the purchase of books.

The librarian recommends the discontinuance of guarantors upon renewals of membership cards after three years. The report showed that 4174 cards were canceled during the year and only 1455 were renewed. This seems to prove that those who have borrowed books for three years and observed all the rules resent the idea of being required to have a new guarantor. The librarian also recommends an open shelf room containing about 8000 v. instead of an absolutely free open shelf system as at present. A fund for the purchase of books for the blind is requested. The librarian recommends that the library board assume the responsibility of presenting every year some one good collection of art. The exhibit in February showed the value of this, where there was an average daily attendance of 1000 people.

The total expenditures were as follows: Books, \$7,098; periodicals and newspapers, \$1,132.45; salaries, including binders (4), \$15,999.57; other expenditures, \$6,794.59; total, \$31,024.61.

Pacific coast

Susan G. Crampton, for some time connected with the Tacoma (Wash.) public library, will leave March 1. Elizabeth Haskell will succeed Miss Crampton.

The report of the San Francisco library for 1909-1910 shows an accession of 26,947 v., making a total of 98,499 v.; borrowers' cards, 37,391; issued for home use, 719,995 v. During the year one branch and three deposit stations were established, making a total of six branches and 11 deposit stations now in operation. The library has now the same number of branches as before the fire and three more deposit stations. The total income was \$83,678; expenditures, \$23,848 for books and periodicals; \$39,666 for salaries; \$18,520 for all other expenses.

The report of the Library association of Portland, Ore., shows a decided increase in growth and volume of work accomplished in every department in the Public library system in that place.

The total number of volumes is 99,892, total circulation 552,722 v., number of card holders, 30,284.

Particularly satisfactory work has been done in connection with the school department established last year and put in charge of Miss H. A. Wood, under whose management the work has proceeded rapidly and effectively. A room adjoining the adult and children's circulating room is open from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. to the teachers of all public and private schools.

The crowded condition of the building is noted and a claim made for more branches and well-equipped branch buildings.

The circulating department shows a gain of over 3000 a month at the Central building and a large gain in all the branch libraries is also shown.

Canada

Gertrude Boyle, B. A., and Dorothy Willis, B. A., both honor graduates of McGill university, Montreal, P. Q., have joined the cataloging staff of the Toronto public library, in which there are now five college graduates representing the

various honor groups of subjects and from four universities of Canada—Toronto, McGill, Queens and Dalhousie.

The plans have been drawn up for a very nice library for the town of Simcoe in Norfolk county. It will cost \$12,000 and the money has been promised by Mr Carnegie. An indication of progress which is hopeful is that the board consulted some librarians before they made out the program for the architects. This is so seldom done in Ontario that it provokes favorable comment—from the better architects.

The report of the Public library of Winnipeg for 1910 is a story of progress. The circulation increased 26,000 over the previous year, making a total of 341,298 v. The percentage of fiction decreased from over 70 per cent to 68 per cent last year. In the children's department there are 5000 v. and 60 magazines. Juvenile branch libraries are organized throughout a number of the public schools, the Y. M. C. A. and other places where young people may have access to them. The newspaper room has been in constant use and representative daily papers of Berlin, Paris and Melbourne are kept on file for reference.

Foreign

The Wellington public library of New Zealand has opened a juvenile department with a collection of 1000 selected books. A charge of 2s. 6d. is made for the use of the department per year.

W. H. Rademaeker, noted for his binding especially in connection with the Newark (N. J.) public library, has found it necessary to move into larger quarters and is now installed at Chester avenue and Oraton street, in Newark. The new building is fire-proof and equipped with modern machinery.

The advancement in quality of library binding in recent years has not been the least advantage accruing to library work from consideration and discussion of library requirements.

In the Cause of Peace

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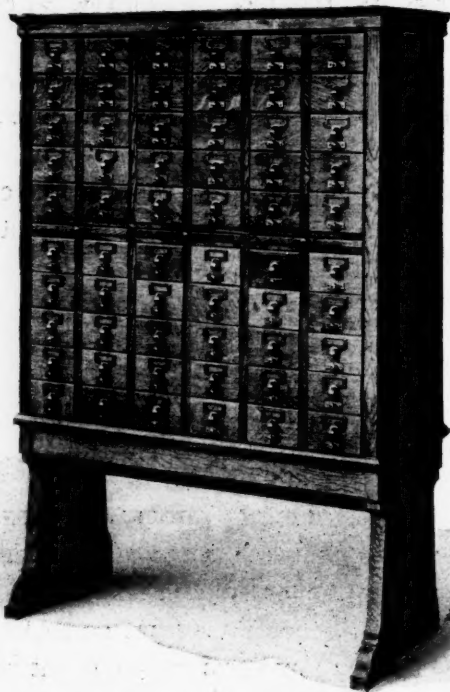
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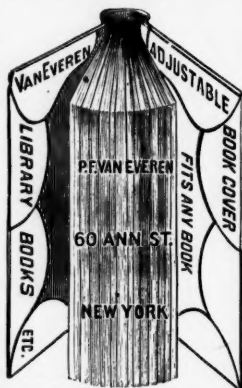
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